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TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

Saturday Review

LONG PAUSE



Harold Pinter is back in the limelight with a full-length play, the first for 13 years. In the Saturday Review tomorrow Alan Franks looks behind the anger

ANTI-SOCIAL?



Child-minders or carers? Polly Toynbee interviews some much-abused social workers and finds both stereotypes and surprises

WEEKEND TIMES

RHYME AND REASON



Wendy Cope is one of many poets taking to the stage next week. In tomorrow's Weekend Times Philip Howard applauds the bards of Britain

HAPPY HALF-TERM



Kite-flying? Treasure hunts? Wildlife walks? Half-term ideas in plenty in Weekend Times

TODAY IN THE TIMES



Sexual harassment? A smokescreen, says Libby Purves – it's the exercise of male power that really grates. Laurie Taylor, meanwhile, argues for an amnesty Page 15

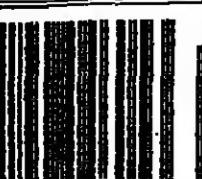
TOUGH AT THE TOP



"You can't sell white cosmetics on white skin," bemoans Naomi Campbell, the supermodel said to earn £10,000-a-day Page 15

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Mass killer harboured lasting grudge against women

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN KILLEEN, TEXAS

GEORGE Hennard, perpetrator of the deadliest mass shooting in American history, was an angry, aggressive loner who harboured a deep grudge against women, his neighbours and the local authorities, it emerged yesterday.

As the devastated people of this town to the heart of Texas thought to comprehend the tragedy, police seeking a motive for Hennard's murderous rampage through Luby's Cafeteria said that hate letters he had sent to female neighbours and his arguments with Bell County authorities were being investigated but they still had no idea what had prompted his actions.

The extraordinary story of Wednesday's massacre, which

left 22 dead and ended in Hennard's suicide, continued to unfold. As he calmly selected his victims, Hennard told Azica McNeil to take her four-year-old daughter out of the restaurant. A restaurant employee was found alive early yesterday morning in the industrial dishwasher where he had hidden to escape Hennard's rampage 19 hours earlier. Another employee may have saved her own life by spending two hours in the restaurant's freezer but required hospital treatment for hypothermia.

In Killeen yesterday people wept, the streets were almost deserted, flags flew at half-mast, the churches announced a prayer vigil and the Luby's

restaurant chain gave \$100,000 to open a memorial fund for the victims' families. The dead were aged from 34 to 70 and included teachers, educational administrators, a high school football coach, a nurse and a Vietnam veteran from the Fort Hood army base abutting the town. Fourteen were women, eight were men, two of the 23 injured are in a critical condition.

Francis Giacomozzi, the Killeen police chief, said Hennard was a 33-year-old white unemployed former merchant seaman who lived alone in his parents' former home in an affluent area of Belton, a small city 18 miles to the north-east. He had been arrested in 1981 for possessing marijuana but had no criminal record.

However one neighbour, Jane Bugg, said Hennard had some time ago taken a fancy to her two daughters. Last June he sent them a rambling letter stating that he had found "the best and worst of women" in Texas... "Please give me the satisfaction of some day laughing in the face of all those, mostly white, treacherously female vipers... who tried to destroy me and my family."

Neighbours said he had argued with them and the authorities about a collapsed wall in his garden. His answering machine said: "Yo Cuz! You've reached public street. Leave your name, number, time and date, and we'll respond. Hang-up phonecalls though are absolutely unacceptable and you'll get bugged, too, if you continue to do so."

Luby's 296-seat cafeteria was said to be three-quarters full when Hennard drove his pick-up truck through a plate-glass window into the restaurant.

Hennard was armed with two 9mm semi-automatic pistols, a Luger with 15 rounds, a Glock with 17 rounds and three spare magazines for each. By the time he killed

himself he still had about 27 unused rounds.

Some diners were killed or injured as his truck crashed through the window. Witnesses said he then walked coolly through the restaurant, picking his victims.

Armed police officers arrived ten minutes after the rampage began and started firing at Hennard. Wounded, he crawled back towards the lavatory and, lying on his back, fired a single shot through his right temple.

Texas gun laws place no prohibition on the purchase of guns. A large hoarding outside D's Pawnshop on the way into town was still offering shotguns for sale from \$69.95.

"Human time-bombs", page 9
Bloody example, page 16



George Hennard: a 1987 picture released by police

TV-am fall breaks Thatcher's heart

By MELINDA WITSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

MARGARET Thatcher, architect of the widely criticised ITV franchise auction, yesterday accepted part of the blame for TV-am losing its licence.

In a handwritten letter to Bruce Gyngell, the TV-am chairman, she said she was heartbroken and mystified by the Independent Television Commission's decision, adding that she was "painfully aware" of her responsibility for the franchise law.

Mrs Thatcher's letter, on House of Commons paper, was hand delivered to Mr Gyngell's Chelsea home late on Wednesday night. She wrote: "Dear Bruce: When I see how some of the other bidders have been awarded, I am mystified that you did not receive yours, and heartbroken. You all have people have so much for the whole of television – there seems to have been no attention to that."

"I am only too painfully aware that I was responsible for the legislation. Yours, Margaret."

Mr Gyngell, who said he had replied with a simple "Thank you, Margaret", disclosed the contents of the letter at a journalism awards luncheon sponsored by TV-am at Claridge's in London. He defended his company's record saying it was the most profitable station in the world and the only one to achieve a 72 per cent market share. Then, after sitting down, he rose again to say: "There's something else. I have this letter which I would like to read to you."

Mr Gyngell became known as Mrs Thatcher's favourite broadcaster after a bitter strike that resulted in the dismissal of 229 TV-am technicians in 1988. Soon afterwards Mrs Thatcher, whose daughter Carol works as a freelance journalist for TV-am, described the broadcasting unions as the last bastion of restrictive practices in Britain.

Yesterday, her letter was greeted with a mixture of incredulity and anger by both winners and losers in the franchise auction. Richard Dunn, the Thatchers' chief executive who was one of the leading lobbyists against the

highest bid system, said: "The former prime minister is not as 'painfully aware' of this as we at Thames Television are." Thames lost its licence yesterday after being outbid by Carlton Television.

David McCall, chief executive of Anglia TV, one of the winners, said: "If she favoured the highest cash bidding system, she shouldn't be surprised at the loss of TV-am. It was the inevitable result. Now she obviously thinks TV-am should have been retained on its merit. If she had accepted what the ITV Association had advocated in the first place – rolling contracts at a set price, accountability to a regulator and takeovers – then TV-am would not have lost its licence."

Grae Dyke, London Weekend Television's chief executive, said: "Some of us tried to explain to the government at the time that the results of the franchise process that they were introducing would be irrational – and they were. I don't remember the government listening too hard then."

Earlier, he told Anne Diamond on a TVB programme that the present government

BR drops liability clause

Rail passengers may be compensated under strictly defined circumstances, reports Michael Dynes

British Rail is to abandon the notorious cast-iron conditions of carriage that have absolved it of any liability for late and cancelled trains since nationalisation in 1948.

BR's revised conditions of carriage, which will be published in December, are expected to acknowledge liability in certain strictly defined circumstances, and provide passengers with a guide to the type and levels of compensation available.

Liability will be restricted to direct loss, enabling passengers to claim compensation for the cost of rail journeys subject to delays or cancellations. It will not cover consequential loss, where passengers suffer further because of late or cancelled services.

The initiative is expected to become one of the cornerstones of the citizen's charter, unveiled in April by John Major as part of the government's pledge to improve public services, although BR had begun work on the scheme of its own volition in January.

But senior ministers yesterday defended the tender system, saying they could not

Continued on page 22, col 1

ITN chief goes, page 2

Jobless rise slows down

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government yesterday welcomed as an "unmistakable" sign of the end of the recession the smallest rise in unemployment for 11 months after the seasonally adjusted number out of work showed a much lower increase than expected.

Government and City forecasters had predicted a rise of another 60,000, but the seasonally-adjusted increase for September was only 35,700, to take the total to 2.46 million. Even so, the rise – the 18th consecutive monthly rise – was the third-highest post-war September increase and took unemployment to the highest for three and a half years.

In the Commons, Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader,

accused the government of

doing Britain down" as un-

employment increased. Mr Kinnock said: "The longer this Cabinet hangs on to its

jobs, the more other people are going to lose theirs."

John MacGregor, leader of the Commons, said Labour would "lose more jobs more permanently".

Government concern about the political impact of unemployment was indicated when Conservative party officials used statistical data not formally published by the government yesterday to show what they said was the decreasing impact of unemployment in Tory constituencies.

They said that unemployment in September fell in 189 constituencies, including six of the ten most marginal Tory seats and 29 of 65 Tory seats with majorities below 5,000.

The lower-than-expected in-

crease sits oddly with a stream of job loss announcements.

Michael Heward, the employment secretary, said that taken with rising exports and imports, and improving

business and consumer confi-

dence, the lower unemploy-

ment figures were "unmistakable signs of the end of the recession".

Unadjusted "headline" un-

employment increased by

15,568 to 2,450,689, a rate of

8.6 per cent.

Leading article, page 17
Wages steady, page 23

Back to school: Norma Major, wife of the prime minister, chatting to children from the St James Mission School near Nyamandhlova in southern Zimbabwe.

At the Commonwealth conference in Harare, John Major announced yesterday that Britain is to go ahead with plans to cancel debts owed by the poorest Third World states.

Summit report, page 12

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No looking back for Osborne's angry O'Toole

By SIMON TAIT
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

TWO of the theatre's most volatile personalities have collided, causing an explosion which will leave several angry men feeling older and one lady feeling anxious.

John Osborne's long awaited sequel to *Look Back in Anger* will not now be opening at the Liverpool Playhouse on November 13 thanks to "irreconcilable differences", said the theatre, between the playwright and Peter O'Toole, who was to have starred in *Deja Vu* as the old Jimmy Porter, the angry young man he last played in 1959.

"Peter wanted changes to the script which John was not happy about," said Ian Kellgren, artistic director of the Liverpool Playhouse. "The changes were made, but Peter was still not happy and the relationship finally fell apart."

Bill Kenwright, the impresario and executive producer of the Playhouse, was last night trying to find a replacement. "This was going to be a great box office success, but now I

EC orders a halt to £500m road schemes

By MICHAEL McCARTHY AND MICHAEL DYNES

WORK should stop immediately on three road schemes costing more than £500 million that are the subject of environmental disputes, including the extension of the M3 motorway through Twyford Down in Hampshire, the European Commission told Britain yesterday.

Carlo Ripa di Meana, the European environment commissioner, made the unprecedented request in a personal letter to Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, which accompanied the formal opening of infringement proceedings against

Salmon drift nets banned

By MICHAEL HORNBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE use of drift nets to catch salmon off the northeast coast of England should be phased out, John Gummer, the agriculture minister, told the Commons yesterday. The announcement delighted rod anglers, who have long campaigned for drift netting to be banned, but commercial fishermen accused the minister of "craven political expediency".

Drift-net fishing for salmon has been banned off Scotland since 1962, but is permitted off Northumbria and Yorkshire under strict controls. England, Ireland and Greenland are now the only countries in Europe still allowing salmon to be caught in this way.

Unveiling a long-awaited review of the salmon fishery, Mr Gummer said there was no evidence of an immediate threat to salmon stocks but that management would improve if drift netting ended

Parliament, page 7

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WOOLWORTHS



Switching off: David Nicholas, who made ITN a leading force in British news gathering and, according to Margaret Thatcher, "without a penny of taxpayers' money".

ITN pioneer steps down after 30 years

SIR David Nicholas's lifetime dedication to Independent Television News could not have been more apparent in the early hours of Monday, August 19. Who else at ITN could have been relied upon to be listening to Radio Moscow at 5am other than the 61-year-old chairman, who promptly woke up ITN's editor with news of the Soviet coup.

"It had happened before on many stories," says Huw Robert, ITN's spokesman and a fellow Welshman. "David goes to bed every night with a radio earpiece so he can pick up stations around the world. He is a consummate newsmen and radio is his hobby. Just the other day, he was swapping wavebands with the head of information at Scotland Yard."

Regarded as one of Britain's most influential figures in the evolution of television news, Sir David retires today after three decades in which he has been ITN's deputy editor, then editor and chief executive, and finally chairman.

As his friend Sir Alastair Burnett said at Sir David's leaving party at the Savoy last Monday, Sir David was "often the only visible force driving ITN". A highly-competitive newsmen, particularly when it came to scooping the BBC, Sir David pioneered election-night computer graphics and technological innovations such as electronic news gathering (ENG) and its satellite precursor (SNG). "He was ITN," many colleagues say.

When Sir David arrived as a sub-editor in 1960, ITN was a struggling appendage of ITV, putting out fewer than ten minutes of news a day. It was transformed into a national institution by Sir David's launch in 1967 of *News at Ten*.

Colleagues are saddened that Sir David's distinguished career with ITN should have ended as the news organisation he built was plunged into financial chaos by an unforeseen £7.6 million overspend in 1989/90, blamed primarily on expensive coverage of revolutions in Eastern Europe.

Police chiefs disclosed yesterday they are asking the government for new powers to stop and search trespassers found in the Channel Tunnel (writes Sheila Gunn).

Before the 1993 opening Kent police want to tighten the Police and Criminal Evidence Act to cope with the unprecedented risks.

At a meeting of the Commons home affairs committee in Maidstone County Hall, Kent, Paul Condon, the county's chief constable, said some French police officers stationed in Folkestone will carry guns. British police at Coquetel will not be armed.

Top award for Times writer

Michael McCarthy, environment correspondent of *The Times*, has won the national newspaper journalist of the year award in the annual British Environment and Media Awards, sponsored by Johnson Matthey and Media Natura, the conservation awareness trust. The citation said he was chosen for his "consistently keen political grasp of environmental matters and his news perception".

Melinda Wittstock, media correspondent of *The Times*, received a special mention yesterday in the TV-am broadcast journalists' awards for her "consistently intelligent writing".



Wittstock: special mention for intelligent writing

CORRECTION

A line was omitted from the anniversaries of October 15. The entry should have read Raymond Poincaré, president of France, 1913-20, Paris 1934; Pierre Laval, head of Vichy government 1942-44, executed, Paris, 1945.

Recession strikes the professions

PROFESSIONALS who for so long could only sympathise with the unemployed are now able to empathise with their plight after gaining first-hand experience.

According to a survey by the magazine *Accountancy Age*, more than a quarter of City accountants fear for their jobs and only insolvency fees lighten the gloom. Nationally, it predicts one in ten - about 50,000 - jobs in banks, building societies and finance houses will have gone by 1993.

Noel Howell, of the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union, said: "We can't remember a hatchery like it." Barclays was cutting 17,000, National Westminster 12,000, Midland 3,000 and the TSB 1,000, while the Co-op Bank planned 25 per cent cuts.

Clair Austin of the British Institute of Management, said tens of thousands of jobs had gone in the past 18 months. British Gas, BT, BP and British Home Stores had cut whole layers of management.

The number of businesses going into receivership in the first three quarters of this year rose 70 per cent on the same period last year, and the number of personal bankruptcies almost doubled over the past year. Especially vulnerable were individual traders, entrepreneurial businesses who had succumbed to high-interest mortgage rates.

Although businessmen complain that commercial

lawyers continue to charge up to £300 an hour, the legal profession has not escaped unscathed. The Law Society has announced 50 redundancies among its 600 staff in a move to cut £3 million from next year's budget, while hundreds of solicitors are unable to find jobs and are not renewing their certificates.

Architects say it is the worst recession they can remember, with one in five out of work. Commissions have fallen by 50 per cent in Scotland and more than 20 in London, the Midlands and East Anglia. The office building boom of the Eighties has fallen away and a depressed housing market has cut the private sector by more than a third.

Highly qualified staff are among thousands of civil engineers who have lost their jobs. The latest *Engineering Economic Trends* report said a further 90,000 jobs would go over the next 12 months on top of the 150,000 lost in the past year. That would reduce engineering employment to 1.84 million against three million in 1980.

More than four out of ten repossessed houses are mortgaged by professionals, say the building societies, with accountants 15 times more likely to lose their homes through arrears than unskilled workers.

Jobless rise, page I
Leading article, page 17
Business, page 33

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Refugee made the long haul from 'Hardship Lane' to SW1



Virani: started with London grocery store

NAZMU Virani is the archetype of someone who, against all odds, clawed his way to the heights of British industry.

He arrived in Britain 19 years ago, a penniless refugee from Idi Amin's campaign of terror against Uganda's 60,000 Asians. He would recount how he was forced to flee at "bayonet point" after a Sikh neighbour was shot dead by soldiers, and how, with his wife, Yasmin, and 18-month-old daughter, Shaila, he was nearly turned back on arrival in Britain for lacking proper papers. It was only when an immigration officer noticed the baby was ill that

Nazmu Virani, as head of Control Securities is the leading Asian at the helm of a public company in Britain, writes Louise Hidalgo

temporary admission was granted. In ten years he rose from owning a grocery store in south London, grudgingly leased to him by a Hampshire property owner to whom he still sends champagne and cigars every Christmas, to become, according to a *Sunday Times* survey this year, one of Britain's richest Asians with a personal fortune of £60 million.

Mr Virani, aged 43, has attributed his fortune to buying and selling property that Britain's property establishment would not touch. "We deal in other people's rubbish," is how he described Control Securities, the now troubled property group with headquarters in SW1, which he turned into one of Britain's top 20 property firms.

"We have connections in the mosque and the temple with

players of these types of property which the big boys in the property world do not have," he is quoted as saying. At one point, Control registered 17,000 private shareholders, including 28 pages of Patels.

After his first supermarket in Lordship Lane, Dulwich — which he refers to as Hardship Lane — Mr Virani built up a chain of 19 retail outlets and a flourishing cash-and-carry business before branching into hotels and then, with the purchase of Belhaven Brewery in 1988, into breweries and public houses. His empire includes the Holiday Inn hotel in

Marble Arch, 11 hotels in Spain and more than 300 pubs.

Mr Virani would buy up inner-city pubs, brand them and transform them. He bought property portfolios wholesale from the likes of British Land and would sell them on to entrepreneurs. He worked hard, on average 18 hours a day, and struck a hard bargain, according to business associates. But he is well liked among both the business and Asian community, counting among his friends Gerald Ronson, Godfrey Bradman and Tony Clegg. When his younger brother married last year, he invited Margaret Thatcher to the

1,000-guest reception at the Grosvenor House Hotel.

His charitable donations to universities and hospitals and work with the Prince of Wales' Youth Business Trust, for which he raised £5 million and was chairman of its Community Affairs Initiative, last year earned him Asian of the Year award.

In July, he headed a trade delegation to Uganda, at the invitation of the country's president, to discuss ways of reviving its ailing economy.

Fraud Office raid, page 1
BCCI enquiry widens, page 23

Inspectors say CTC lessons in technology sub-standard

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

BRITAIN'S first city technology college, described by government ministers as a "beacon of excellence", was criticised yesterday by Her Majesty's inspectors of schools for sub-standard lessons in technology.

Kingshurst CTC in Solihull, West Midlands, which opened in September 1988, was also criticised for a "lack of clear and coherent planning" in science and "less than satisfactory" lessons in modern languages, with teachers unable to use the language fluently and conducting many lessons in English.

Examining technology at the school, the inspectors say: "The good work in informa-

Poll backs university investment

By JOHN O'LEARY
HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

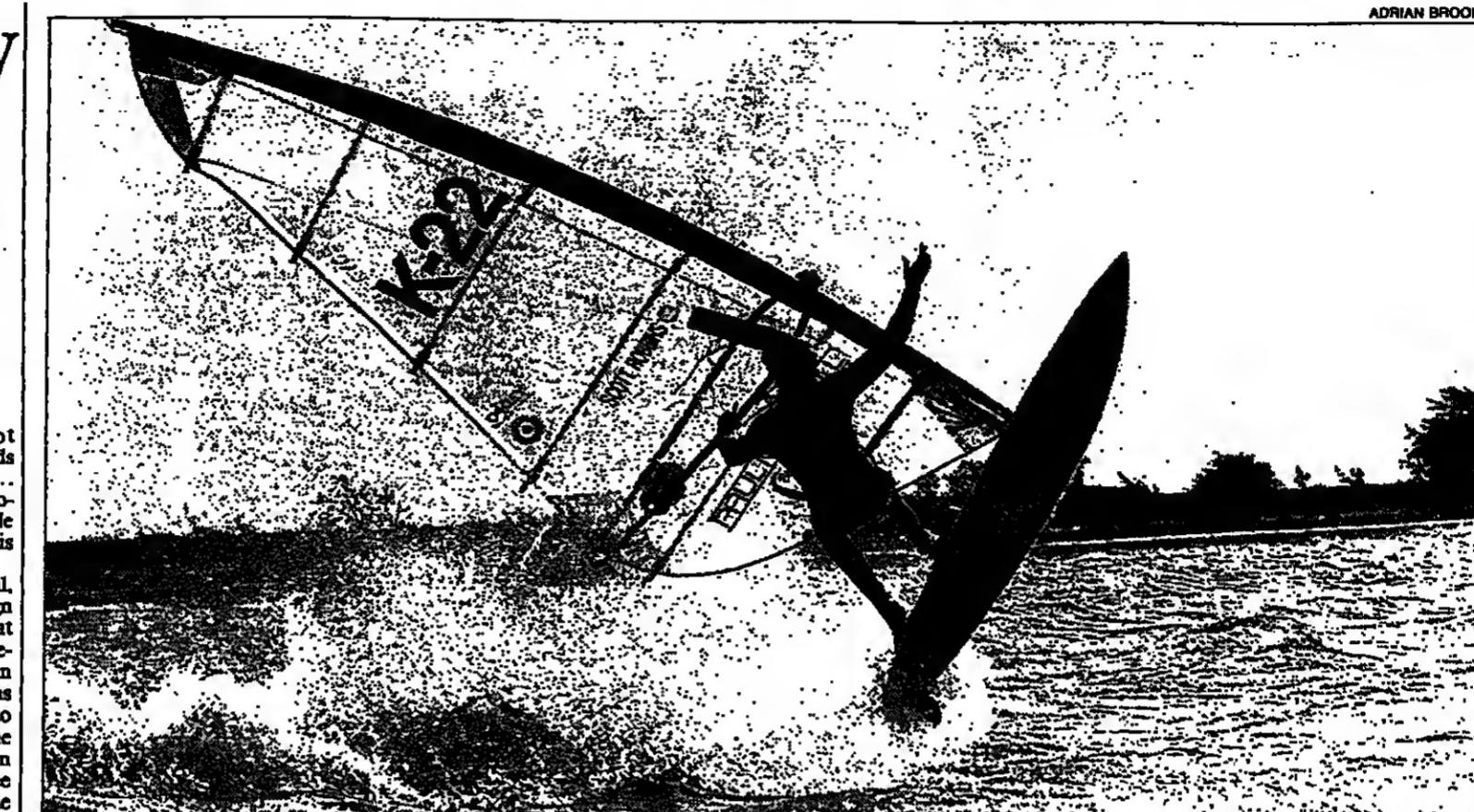
SEVEN out of ten people would be willing to pay higher taxes to maintain the quality of British universities, according to a poll published today.

Almost nine out of ten of those interviewed by Gallup early this month saw increased investment in higher education as vital to Britain's economic prosperity.

The majority of almost 1,000 interviewees, including a third of Conservative supporters, felt that universities' achievements had been undervalued by the government. Similar proportions thought that university research received too little public money.

Diana Warwick, general secretary of the Association of University Teachers, which commissioned the poll, said: "These results must persuade policy makers that election manifestos supporting investment in higher education will be vote-winners. We have been saying for a long time that science is suffering, that standards and quality depend on investment."

Yoko Ono has kept a promise to Liverpool with a £405,000 gift to its university. Proceeds from a trust fund will provide John Lennon scholarships for students unable to afford to study at it.



Riding the storm: Scott Robbins, aged 25, has no complaints about yesterday's winds as he practises on the Queen Mary reservoir in Surrey for next week's British windsurfing championships at Bournemouth. At time he became airborne on gusts of up to 50mph

Bishop warns dean of commercialism

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bishop of Salisbury has condemned the increasing use of the city's 13th century cathedral as a place of entertainment and profit.

In a report published today which will be seen as akin to Christ's throwing the money-lenders out of the temple, the bishop warns the dean and chapter against the commercialisation of cathedral activities.

But he recognises that the staff have been forced to turn to Mammon by the enormous burden of their cathedral stewardship. The Rt Rev John Baker says cathedral staff cannot assume today that visitors understand why there is a cross on the altar. He questions how many visitors know what a cathedral church, or even a diocese, is in the Church of England. He says

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, accepted that the report highlighted some weaknesses but said that the inspectors had praised the college on the maturity and enthusiasm of its students and on the speed with which the college had established itself as a popular school.

Middlesex Polytechnic, north London, is to shed 90 jobs, half from among academic staff, due to financial problems caused by its recent expansion.



Bishop Baker: against charging for entry

that the financial needs of the cathedral appear to have taken over to such an extent that the overwhelming impact on the visitor is of appeals for money. He warns that the temptation of using the drawing power of the cathedral to finance its work can result in decision-making being controlled by the need for money.

The bishop carried out a "visitation", or inquiry, into the cathedral at the invitation of the dean and chapter. In the 31-page report he objects to proposals in the "highly contentious" Rothermel Thomas study on management of the close.

The bishop decides himself against charging for entry and against the development of a separate visitor centre and restaurant, which, he says, could deter visitors from entering the church itself. The cathedral authorities ought to phase out such features, not build them up. "There should be a warm welcome and basic amenities, no more," he adds.

The bishop criticises the lack of material explaining the church's mission and the religious meaning of features of the cathedral.

He attacks the use of the cathedral as a place of entertainment. Using it as a venue for the *Antiques Roadshow* was "crossing the wrong side of even a necessarily broad and hazy line", he says.

Coroner attacks cash delay

THE coroner holding an inquest on Penny Bell, the businesswoman found stabbed to death in her Jaguar car in a west London car park, yesterday criticised a rule that holds up insurance payments to a murder victim's family.

More than four months after Mrs Bell's death insurance companies had not made payments to her family because no death certificate had been issued. Dr John Burton, coroner for Hammersmith and Fulham, who recorded a verdict of unlawful killing on Mrs Bell, aged 42, of Denham, Buckinghamshire, attacked the rule that in a murder case death can only be registered when a person is charged with homicide or an inquest is completed.

The Association of British Insurers said the terms of a

policy laid down what documents were required for proof of death and establishment of the claim. An interim death certificate is not the same as the actual one, and it's up to the company to decide whether it can bend the rules in each case."

After the hearing Mrs Bell's husband Alisair, aged 44, said he would never lose hope that the killer would be traced.

Alcohol test loophole upheld

A LEGAL loophole that cleared the boxing promoter Frank Warren of a drink-driving charge was upheld by the High Court yesterday in a judgment that could lead to hundreds of successful appeals by convicted drink-drivers.

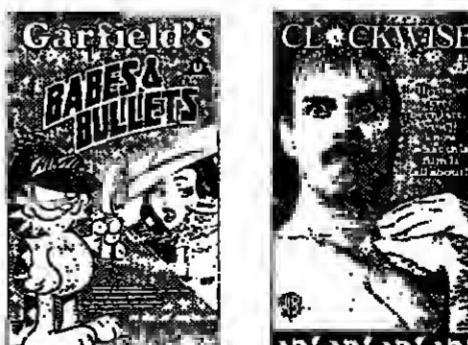
Warren was arrested after a roadside breath test proved positive. But he was cleared by Bow Street magistrates on January 22 because officers did not comply with a legal obligation to ask whether he would prefer to give a urine or blood sample. The Director of Public Prosecutions appealed against the decision.

Mr Justice Potts was told yesterday that Warren, aged 38, of Tewin Wood, Hertfordshire, was charged with driving in Mayfair, London, while over the drink driving limit and taken to Vine Street police station.

Mr Potts made clear that when it was found that a breath test could not be taken at the police station because the intoximeter was faulty, the custody officer should have given Warren the opportunity to say whether he preferred a blood or urine sample to be taken.

Afterwards a legal spokesman said there were hundreds of cases since 1987 where drink-driving offenders had been convicted and had not been given the opportunity to give their preference over a blood or urine sample. They would now be able to appeal against their convictions.

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Ill wind blows in twitcher's 'disease'

By TIM JONES

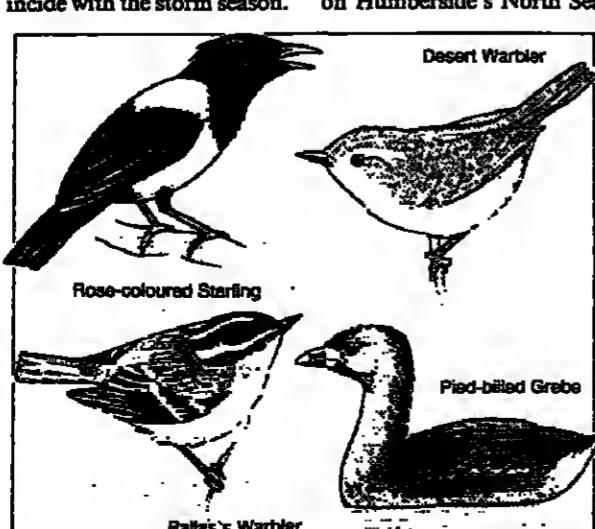
THE storm that has been battering parts of Britain has brought with it good news for thousands of amateur ornithologists — and bad news for their employers, who may find a mysterious increase in days lost to "illness".

Throughout the land, from the Isles of Scilly to lonely Loch Lubnaig, near Crieff, rare birds are landing unexpectedly and people afflicted with "twitchers' disease" are driving through the night to track them down and render their temporary domiciles even less restful.

It can be no fun being a Pied-billed Grebe or a Sora Rail, a secretive marsh bird with only 12 sightings recorded in the UK over the past 150 years. One minute, you are a young bird enjoying a comfortable existence in North America and the next, whoosh! you hit a 150mph air current and end up in a swamp near St Mary's, Isles of Scilly or, in the case of the grebe, on a strange lake in Scotland. Life becomes even less endurable

when scores of human beings trample down the reeds and heather to take your picture and tick off you on their list.

For the twitchers, the sound of a great storm sweeping in is music. Many would consider exchanging their grandmothers for the chance to drive through the night to seize the moment, while the more organised plan their holidays to coincide with the storm season.



Weather, page 22

coast. It has been recorded on these shores only six times before and normally lives in the southern Soviet Union.

Sadly, many of the wayward birds are so far from their usual migratory routes that they will not survive.

There is some good news.

The RSPB has praised police

for 40 successful prosecu-

tions last year, in cases

ranging from egg stealing to

game keepers' poisoning

magnificent birds of prey.

Yesterday, supporters of

the society delivered 55,000

postcards to the EC environ-

ment commissioner, calling

for an end to the import of

birds caught in the wild.

Barbara Young, the soci-

ety's chief executive, said:

"The international trade in

wild birds is of great concern

to the British public. It has

brought many birds to the

edge of extinction. Only new

legislation to prohibit the

importation of wild birds in

the community will end this

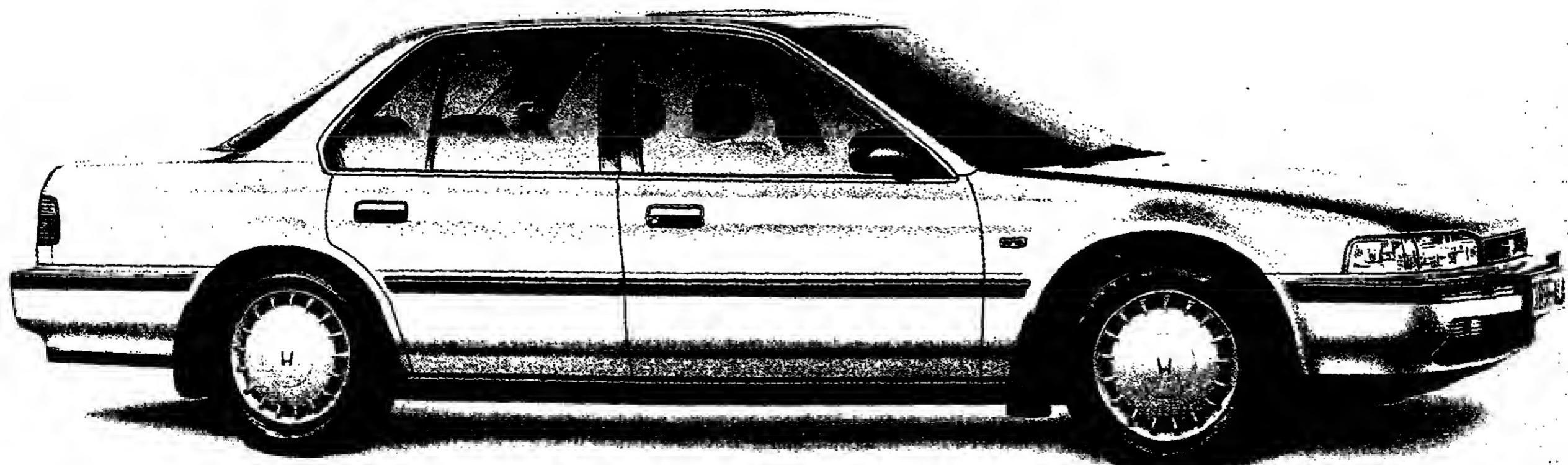
inexcusable and unsustain-

able trade in death."

Even before it's left the showroom the Honda Accord is streets ahead of its rivals.

LIST PRICE (INCL VAT & SCT)	HONDA ACCORD 2.0I AUTO £17,090*	VAUXHALL CARLTON 2.0I L AUTO £17,235	VOLVO 940 GL AUTO £17,675	BMW 320I AUTO £19,245
PERFORMANCE				
Bhp	135	115	111	150
0-62 mph (seconds)	11.2	12.5	12.7	10.8
Maximum speed (mph)	123	118	112	133
STANDARD EQUIPMENT				
ABS	✓	✓		
Catalytic converter	✓	✓	✓	✓
Valves per cylinder	4	2	2	4
Power steering	✓	✓	✓	✓
Central locking	✓	✓	✓	✓
Electric windows (number)	4		2	2
Cruise control	✓			
Electric adj and heated mirrors	✓		✓	
Seat height adjustment	✓	✓	✓	✓
Electric sunroof	✓			
Radio cassette	✓	✓	✓	
Headlamp washers	✓		✓	
Steering height adjustment	✓	✓		
Metallic paint	✓			

SOURCE: JATO CARSPEC DATA BASE



The Accord 2.0i automatic is a car in a league of its own.

No other executive saloon comes with such an impressive list of standard equipment. The Accord has everything from a catalytic converter to help

protect the environment, to anti-lock brakes to help protect you. In addition, it features electric windows, mirrors and sunroof, as well as cruise control. And all this without any addition to the £17,090* price tag.

To find out more about the Accord's many attributes, simply fill in the coupon or freephone 0800-159-159 for our brochure. Then take a long hard look at the other 'luxury' saloons. We think you'll agree, there's no contest.

NAME	SURNAME
ADDRESS	POSTCODE
TELEPHONE	PRES. CAR NAME
NUMBER ACCORD 2.0I	YEAR OF REG.
	MONTH EXPECTED REPLACEMENT MARCH '92
	YEAR OF REPLACEMENT MARCH '92



PROGRESS WITH DISTINCTION

*PRICE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. INCLUDES CAR TAX AND VAT BUT EXCLUDES DELIVERY, NUMBER PLATES AND ROAD TAX. ALL NEW HONDA MODELS HAVE A 2 YEAR WARRANTY AND HONDACARE AA ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE AS STANDARD.

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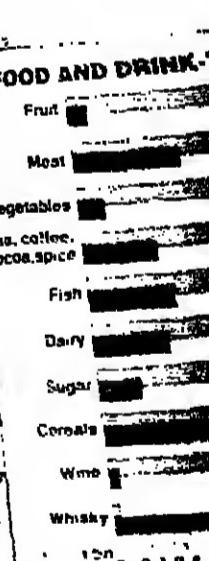
The enquiry reflects v
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Wilson, editor of the N
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Lee, English law professor
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The impetus for the enq
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By MICHAEL HOWESON, BRITAIN'S
as far as food is concerned, the
reducing the nation's diet in
the food and drink trade
because the government
gives the industry far less
financial support than its
continental counterparts,
according to a report.

Paul Judge, chairman of
Food from Britain, the of
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trade gap.

"The British food in
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Mr Judge said. Government
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significantly lower than in
other European countries.
States, first from Britain
had a budget last year of

Haughey's grip weakened by policy rift disclosure

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

CHARLES Haughey's authority as Irish prime minister and Fianna Fáil leader was badly damaged yesterday by disclosures that his finance minister had rejected his acceptance of terms for a new programme of government with the party's junior coalition partners, the Progressive Democrats.

Although Mr Haughey has survived many challenges to his authority during long bruising political career, col-

People of Ulster to have a say

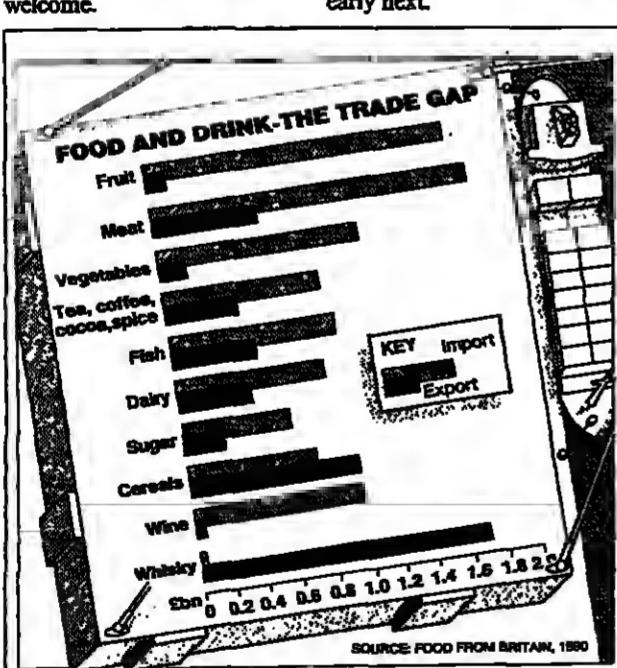
AN INDEPENDENT commission of enquiry into public views on a political settlement in Northern Ireland is likely to be set up early next year, its organisers confirmed yesterday (Edward Gorman writes).

The enquiry reflects widespread frustration with government policy and the failure of the province's leaders to reach agreement over 21 years. It is the idea of Robin Wilson, editor of the Northern Ireland current affairs magazine *Fortnight*, and Simon Lee, English-born professor of jurisprudence at Queen's University, Belfast.

Mr Wilson believes government initiatives have taken insufficient account of the public's views and alienated many talented people. "An independent commission of enquiry offers the best approach to secure an opening in the political logjam," he said. The impetus for the enquiry is the recent failure of efforts by Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, and opinion polls showing enthusiasm for progress and suggesting that party leaders are out of touch with their supporters.

A steering group of community, church, business, trade union and academic figures is looking for up to five commissioners, at least one of whom is expected to come from each of mainland Britain, Northern Ireland, and the Republic. The chairmanship could come from abroad.

Politicians have given the commission a guarded welcome.



Food exporters 'need more help'

By MICHAEL HORNSEY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN is failing to reduce a £6 billion deficit in the food and drink trade because the government gives the industry far less financial support than its continental counterparts, according to a report yesterday.

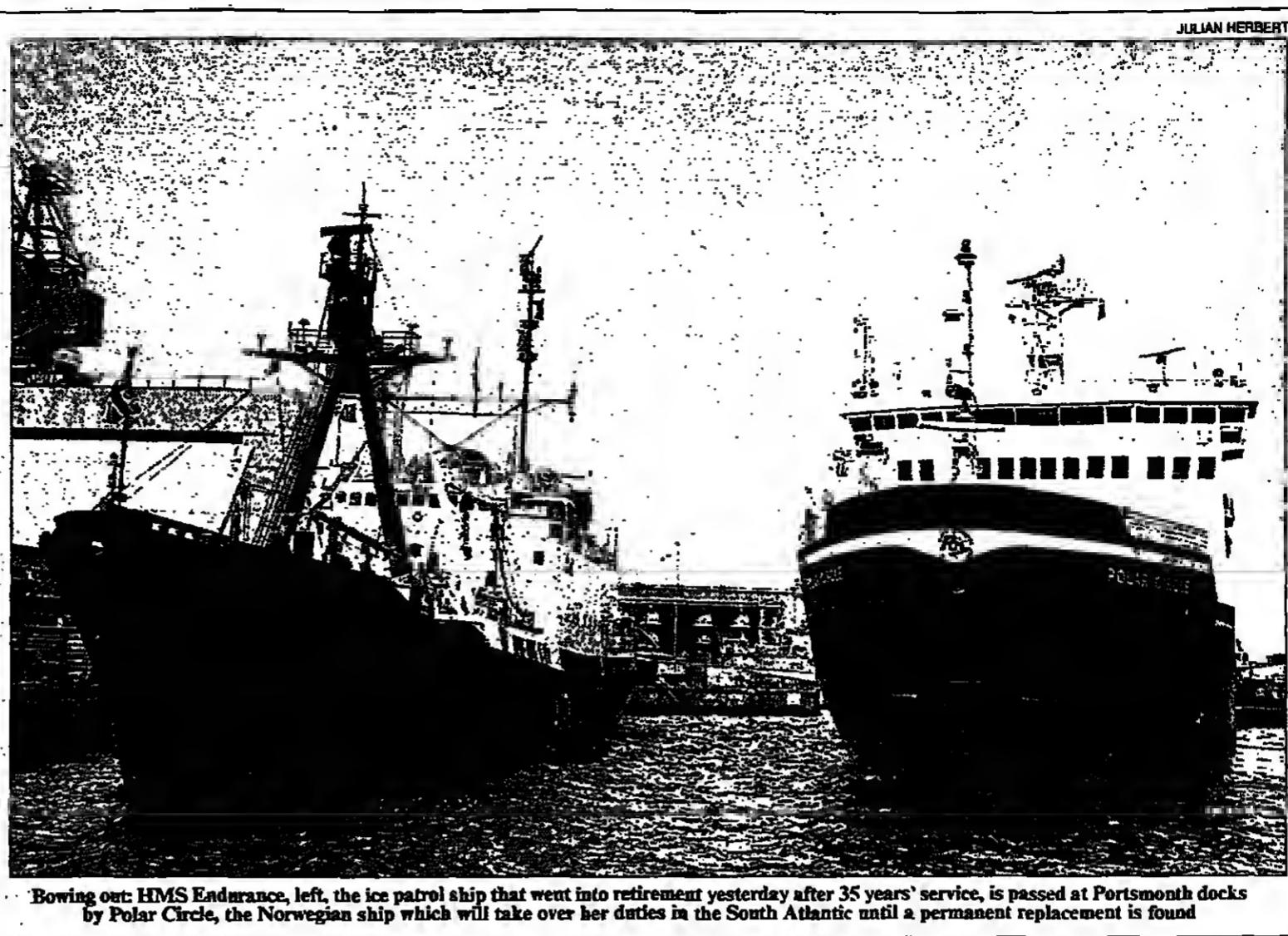
Paul Judge, chairman of Food from Britain, the official body promoting British exports, said that the government did not appreciate what was at stake in an industry employing 1.5 million people and accounting for 42 per cent of Britain's trade gap.

"The British food industry itself must improve its marketing and export activities, but government must take responsibility for seeing that the industry competes on the same footing as other member states," Mr Judge said. Government support for agriculture was significantly lower than in other European community states. Food from Britain had a budget last year of

£7.5 million, of which £3 million came from the industry and £4.5 million from the government, Mr Judge said. The equivalent French body had a budget of more than £50 million, of which £27 million came from the government, and employed 32 people in its London office. Food from Britain could only afford to base four people in Paris.

Mr Judge said a concerted effort by government and industry could eliminate the food and drink deficit within 10 years. Discussion with food companies and retailers suggested that food and drink imports, now around £12 billion a year, could be cut by about £3.7 billion, and exports raised from £6 billion to £8 billion.

Half of the imports were of foodstuffs that could not be grown in Britain but about £4.5 billion worth were accounted for by meat, vegetables and dairy products from other northern European countries.



Arrested saboteurs awarded damages

By JOHN YOUNG

NINE men who were falsely arrested and imprisoned after a meeting of the Old Berkshire Beagles in 1989 were awarded a total of £12,000 in damages by Aylesbury county court, yesterday.

However, the jury rejected their claim that police had deliberately overheated cells they were kept in at Aylesbury police station, Buckinghamshire.

Judge Morton Jack, who had already ruled that the plaintiffs had been unlawfully imprisoned, said the jury's task was to decide whether there was a trespass against the person by the police.

Either police were trying to hide something, and had put their heads together, which was an ugly allegation, or the saboteurs had put their heads together to come up with the overheating claim, which was an ugly allegation.

Only one plaintiff, Eric Staples, aged 25, of Swanley, Kent, claimed successfully for trespass. He said a police helicopter flew too close to him. Thames Valley Police is considering appeals.

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Carey defends his attack on inner-city deprivation

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday renewed his criticisms of the poverty, social deprivation and inequalities within inner cities.

Dr George Carey, undaunted by attacks on his view that the Tyneside riots were linked to social deprivation and illiteracy, said that it was not enough to feel outrage about the violence and it was "right to be angry about inequality and injustice".

Speaking at a Church Urban Fund conference in central London, he repeated his pledge to maintain a high political profile. "The church will continue to teach and to bear witness to what the Christian faith instructs about the way we should deal with each other in society."

Of media pressure to express outrage at the riots during his recent visit to Newcastle upon Tyne, Dr Carey said: "Of course I condemn unreservedly behaviour which causes fear and danger to people, damage to property and which destroys peace and good order." Christian morality, he said, was rooted in a God of order.

"But while I want to do all I can to support order, I'm less convinced that outrage is a sufficient and adequate response to those recent disturbances or riots." He said that

anger was one of the most powerful of God-given emotions. "In our personal, spiritual and public lives anger can be a powerful force, and controlled anger can do a great deal of good. It is right to be angry about inequality and injustice."

He denied that his speech contained veiled criticisms of the government and said that he welcomed its inner-city programme.

His comments, however, could only realistically be divorced from political reaction to his earlier comments, made in the wider context of a speech on education. Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, said that he had been waiting with increasing sadness for a senior churchman to speak out and condemn the acts of violence.

Dr Carey, referring to his critics, said: "Of course there will be differences of view. Those who take pleasure in concentrating on those differences and portraying them as conflicts will always find some grist for their mills." Although he condemned the violence, and called for partnership and a "shared vision" as the key to economic and social regeneration, he spoke of the need for the church to help those who were "trapped in their anger" to learn how to express it constructively.

"The problems of our inner cities and of isolated housing estates around them are very serious," he said. "Let there be no mistaking that there are people there in great need and poverty. They yearn to live lives with the same sort of opportunities as everyone else. The future of our cities depends on finding ways of ensuring that they have opportunities to help themselves. We must have confidence and faith in those people."

Carey: "It is right to be angry about injustice"



Penny-farthing for his thoughts: Derek Roberts, seen through the wheel, at the launch of *Cycling History - Myths and Queries* (John Pinkerton, £12.95) at the Science Museum, London, yesterday. His book uses the question and answer form to trace the development of the bicycle

Timeshare 'gift' firm fined

By PAUL WILKINSON

FREE "gifts" offered to persuade people to attend a timeshare promotion cost the suppliers more than £6,000 in fines and costs at Kingston magistrates' court in southwest London. The items were intended to entice customers to promotions by Globe Link Marketing, a Surrey firm highlighted by *The Times* earlier this year for aggressive marketing.

In what is believed to be the first successful prosecution of its kind, the Exeter supplier, Flair Marketing, and its manager, Scott Tomlinson, admitted three charges each of misleading customers and

were fined a total of £5,668 with £436 costs. Flair admitted breaches of the Trade Descriptions Act and the Consumer Protection Act by claiming to offer free gifts and by giving a misleading description of a video camera offered as a prize.

Ted Forsyth, director of Kingston trading standards department, said that a canvasser told one potential customer she would win a sports boat if she attended a two-hour presentation. After the presentation, however, she was told that she had to pay £48.50 to obtain it.

In January another woman

was told that she had won a VHS video camera but was later told she had to pay £86 for it. The company also misleadingly suggested that the camera, which recorded in black and white, would record in colour.

William Webb, for Flair Marketing, said that the company was paid on the basis of the numbers that went through Globe Link's doors.

The wording of its invitations was based on those used by other timeshare companies and it had not taken legal advice. It believed that Globe Link was marketing its produce as free gifts.

Camra fights to save 'real pubs'

By JOHN YOUNG

THE British pub is in danger of becoming a licensed amusement arcade, with video machines in every corner, or a psychedelic cocktail bar with drinks served in plastic test tubes, Jeff Evans, editor of the *Camra Good Beer Guide*, said yesterday.

At a reception to mark the organisation's 21st birthday, Camra officials said that they would fight as hard to protect traditional British pubs, many of whose tenants were threatened with eviction, as they had done to save cask-conditioned real ales from being supplanted by keg beers during the 1970s.

Mr Evans said that tenants could become an endangered species as a result of government attempts to reduce the powers of the big breweries and limit the number of tied houses.

The breweries were attempting to evade their responsibilities by replacing tenants with managers; tenants who elected to stay on faced rents two or three times their present level.

Policeman witness found dead at home

A policeman was found dead at home yesterday after being accused of framing a fellow officer in a court case.

PC Paul Mason, aged 43, was found dead in Hovevire, Exeter, two days after giving evidence against an officer accused of assaulting a handcuffed prisoner. PC Mason was a witness in the continuing trial at Exeter crown court of PC Bryan Hepburn, who has denied causing actual bodily harm to David Codd during a struggle to arrest him after a domestic dispute.

PC Mason said he saw PC Hepburn, aged 29, kick Mr Coker three times in the head at his Exeter home. He was cross-examined by Christopher Wilson-Smith, who accused him of flogging PC Hepburn after causing Mr Coker's injuries himself.

Dealer's death

A drug dealer was killed for trying to muscle in on a south London territory, an inquest was told. Hopeton Daley, aged 30, was shot in Deptford soon after arriving in Britain from Jamaica. Southwark coroner's court was told. Sir Montague Levine, coroner, recorded a verdict of unlawful killing.

Player guilty

Sandy Robertson, a Rangers footballer, was yesterday found guilty at Edinburgh Sheriff Court of punching a woman who pinched his bottom in an Edinburgh night club. He was told to pay her £1,500 compensation. Katherine Egan denied making sectarian remarks against him.

Poster charge

A Sheffield man appeared in court accused of displaying posters likely to cause alarm or distress after complaints about rock concert advertising showing the moors murders. The case was adjourned.

M27 alert

Police banned traffic from the M27 fearing that a military aircraft circling over Hampshire might have to land on it, but the pilot managed to come in at Eastleigh airport.

THE TIMES FRIDAY

Labour again enact

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE Labour leadership made plain yesterday that it would not co-operate with the government's new budget, which it said was "a massive tax on the poor".

DORG: he killed 25 was a cafeteria and profile of a man in common among mass murder, usually a white man between 25 and 35, attached to his mother, a k with a shaky ego and seek out pent-up anger over grievances real or imagined.

As police yesterday sought to trigger off the single incident which sparks a killer's ramparts said his behaviour conformist to the pattern which has sent at least other men of similar mixtures of random murder over past decade. I finally small killers have little ground of preoccupation, but, sullen and high-table, they are regarded as "human timebombs" by who know them.

Hennard's match described him in 1978 as a Rangers footballer, was yesterday found guilty at Edinburgh Sheriff Court of punching a woman who pinched his bottom in an Edinburgh night club. He was told to pay her £1,500 compensation. Katherine Egan denied making sectarian remarks against him.

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Middle come

From C AND R

IN THE Middle East, diplomatic sources in the US say that President Bush and Gorbachev will co-host at the regional peace conference in Geneva, Switzerland, on October 29.

The semi-official press quoted sources in the US saying unequivocally that two presidents will meet at the White House office to dampen the phasing that a vision had yet to be agreed. "They both wanted to get a conference off to a good start," said Martin F. White House spokesman. "But at this point, not willing to commit."

Soviet source Gorbachev will attend in person to demonstrate Moscow's still important role in the Middle East. He sent a message of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Tunis urging it to continue its efforts.

In the meeting, leader urged central committee which was to reach a decision to "take towards the He added it

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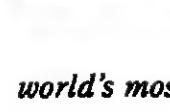
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Labour stands firm against help to enact council tax

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour leadership made plain yesterday that it would not co-operate with the government's attempts to push through at high speed its bill abolishing the poll tax and replacing it with a council tax.

At the same time, the government continued its fightback over the health service by portraying its decision to stage a Commons debate on health next Monday as evidence of its increasing confidence on an issue where Labour has consistently made the running. Its claim was instantly derided by Labour, which alleged that it had been pressing all week for a debate and was relishing the prospect of again taking on William Waldegrave, the health secretary, over his plans for national health service trusts.

The debate will be held on the last full day of this parliamentary session. The next session will be dominated by the council tax, and Labour sources claimed yesterday that it would be impossible for the bill to go through before next April without breaching the normal parliamentary conventions for intervals between the various legislative stages of the bill.

The council tax is the government's top priority in its new programme of legislation to be unveiled in the Queen's Speech on October 31. The government wants it to go through as quickly as possible to give John Major maximum flexibility over the timing of the election. Ministers need to get it enacted before the election to fulfil their promise that the new tax will be in operation on April 1, 1993.

Even if the bill is introduced into Parliament during the Queen's Speech debate, Labour says, the accepted procedure of a gap of at least two weeks between first and second readings would mean that second reading could not come before November 11. There is usually at least a two-week gap between second reading and committee stages, making November 25 the earliest date for committee stage.

Labour claims that the only

IN COMMONS

way the government could get the bill to the Lords by January would be to restrict the committee stage to between six and eight committee days because of the time needed by parliamentary draftsmen to make the necessary changes to the bill for the report stage. They add that similar requirements in the Lords and the possibility that the bill might not be popular with some Tory peers means that royal assent is unlikely before April.

Outlining Labour's strategy on the council tax yesterday, David Blunkett, the local government spokesman, said: "The mistakes of the poll tax are being revisited in the council tax and the attempt to rush it through without adequate parliamentary scrutiny, simply to provide John Major with flexibility over the election date, may prove disastrous for the government. Labour will ensure proper debate of the proposals

throughout their parliamentary passage — we will not co-operate with attempts to guillotine discussion."

Mr Blunkett added: "The tragedy is that once again an opportunity has been missed to agree a durable and rational method of raising local taxes, which would have made the poll tax not merely a nightmare to be endured, but a learning process out of which could come a brighter dawn for local government."

Meanwhile, both sides were tussling for the credit for Monday's health debate. Tory MPs cheered the news when it was announced by John MacGregor, the Commons leader. However, Labour claimed equal pleasure at the announcement and said that the government had decided to hold the debate only because there was every likelihood that the Speaker would have granted a request for an emergency debate on Monday from Robin Cook, the shadow health secretary.

John Grigg, page 16



Blunkett: Labour will insist on proper scrutiny

Scots Conservatives put on their guard

Three weeks from today the Scottish Conservatives could well be licking their wounds, having suffered the loss of the Kincardine and Deeside by-election and seen their parliamentary representation in Scotland reduced to only nine seats. That would leave the Liberal Democrats with the second largest number of MPs north of the border.

Kincardine and Deeside is a diverse seat, covering part of Aberdeen, the small towns and villages of a farming community rolling up Royal Deeside to the edge of the Cairngorms, and the fishing villages on the North Sea coast. Although represented for the Tories by Alick Buchanan-Smith for 27 years

until his recent death, much of the area has had a strong socialist tradition. The Conservatives have also been put on their guard by the rising support for the Liberal Democrats, who hold the neighbouring seats of Gordon and Inverness-Nairn and Lochaber. There is no doubt that Mr Buchanan-Smith's hold on the seat, albeit by a majority of little more than 2,000, in the 1987 general election, owed much to his personal following and his desire often to distance himself from

Tory policies. Nicoll Stephen, aged 31, the Liberal Democrat, was runner-up in 1987 and is widely expected to take the seat on November 7.

The Tory choice to fight the seat is Marcus Humphrey, an old Etonian lad aged 53, whose Dinnet estate marches with that of the Queen on the western fringe on the constituency. He seems as keen as Mr Buchanan-Smith was to distance himself from some of the Tories' more unpopular

politics. He is opposed to the amalgamation of the Gordon Highlanders with the Queen's Own Highlanders; he has expressed his dismay at proposals to allow Aberdeen Royal Infirmary to opt for health trust status and is believed to favour a decommissioning scheme to help uneconomic vessels to leave the beleaguered Scottish fishing fleet.

On local issues, the Tory, Labour and Liberal Democrat candidates seem to be largely in agreement, a confusing situation for the seat's 65,667 electors of whom more than a third live in Aberdeen, Scotland's third largest city. Unemployment is low — Aberdeen has enjoyed an economic boom based on North Sea oil and gas — and

Kincardine and Deeside has a broad economic base ranging from the oil and gas industries to farming, forestry, fishing and tourism.

Local Tories are nervous, which perhaps is why they chose the Laird of Dinnet, an old-style Tory pro-prince to rebel against current party policy, although Mr Humphrey said that he wished "to nail" his image as a Tory rebel.

The candidates: Mr Humphrey, Mr Stephen, Malcolm Savidge (Lab), Allan Macartney (SNP) and Stephen Campbell (Green).

General election: A. Buchanan-Smith (C), 19,438; N. Stephen (L/All), 17,375; J. Thomaseck (Lab), 7,624; F. Duncan (SNP), 3,082; L. Perica (Green), 299. C map: 2,063

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MPs begin voting for what might be Kinnock's cabinet

LABOUR MP began voting last night in elections that will determine the shape of Neil Kinnock's cabinet if Labour wins the general election (Philip Webster writes).

Thirty-eight Labour MPs were nominated for the 18 elected posts that must, under the rules of the parliamentary party, form the basis of the first cabinet.

Martin O'Neill, the shadow defence secretary, and Kevin McNamara, the shadow Northern Ireland secretary, are making another attempt to be elected to the shadow cabinet. Success would avoid a dilemma for Mr Kinnock in the event of a Labour victory.

Neither are elected members of the shadow cabinet and, although the Labour leader respects their abilities, he would clearly prefer to have elected figures in such sensitive posts. Mr Kinnock has little scope for personal appointments. Including himself and his deputy, Roy Hattersley, 20 of the posts will be needed for the Lord Chancellor and Leader of the Lords.

Also standing are: Tony Banks, Tony Benn, Dennis Canavan, Bob Cryer, Tam Dalyell, Ron Davies, Llin Golding, Mildred Gordon, Bernice Grant, Harriet Harman, Joan Lester, Kevin McNamara, Martin O'Neill, George Robertson, Barry Sheerman, Clive Short, Clive Soley, Chris Smith, Gavin Strang, and Keith Vaz.

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KNIGHTSBRIDGE

Ministers' pay squeeze causes ripple of worry

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DOWNTON Street's disclosure that John Major is making ready to impose a further squeeze on ministers' salaries in January has sent a ripple of anxiety through the ranks of the payroll vote.

According to official figures obtained by *The Times*, the differential between the pay of ministers and backbenchers has narrowed over the past decade. Nowhere is this more apparent than at cabinet level. In 1979, the most senior members of the government were paid 2.64 times more than humble backbenchers. This year, the ratio is little more than 2.1 and, with the prime minister planning to demand that his ministerial colleagues again set an example of pay restraint, the gap will close further.

Under the formula linking MPs' pay to that of senior civil servants, MPs are assured a rise of 6.5 per cent, well above inflation. Ministers will get markedly less when Mr Major, like Margaret Thatcher before him, exercises his discretion over salary levels.

The same trends are apparent at the most junior rung on the ladder. In 1979, par-

SALARIES

timentary secretaries earned 1.57 times more than backbenchers. Now the figure is only 1.46 times.

In the run-up to an election, Mr Major can be confident that any rumblings about ministerial salary levels will remain safely below the political radar. Nevertheless, some ministers, with memories still fresh of more lucrative days combining an MP's salary with earnings from outside interests, are showing signs of

One junior minister said that, while the occasional MP refused a government job because he could not afford the consequent drop in salary, there were many more who eventually gave up the struggle

bring up a family on between £40,000 and £60,000 a year. "There is the odd person who refuses a ministerial job because of the money. More commonly, they try to get by until their bank manager and their overdraft between them force them to stand down from ministerial office. At that point, it is not a question of choice."

A cabinet minister ex-

plained much the same sentiments, pointing out that circumstances had changed markedly in the past decade.

In previous times, when power passed fairly regularly between the two main parties,

the average minister could re-

ckon on a period out of office when, by taking on outside work, he could make up ground on his peers.

A different view came from Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bonsor, who makes no complaint about his £28,970 a year. He said that ministers muttering about their pay were the very people condemning Labour's plans for a minimum wage of £3.40 an hour for the poorest-paid workers.

AROUND THE LOBBY

Hospital drivers aided

Changes in the tax rules on car mileage allowances for hospital volunteer drivers will be phased in over a number of years, Francis Maude, Treasury financial secretary, said at question time.

Concern has been expressed since health authorities were told that volunteer drivers would have to pay tax when allowances exceed costs.

Government help for Iraq

The government is to give further humanitarian aid to the people of Iraq. Lynda Chalker, the overseas aid minister, announced: "About £500,000 is to be given to the British Red Cross for urgent medical supplies to be sent to Iraqi hospitals and clinics. The donation is part of a £1.7 million consignment of drugs, rice and tea being sent to Iraq by the British Red Cross."

Funeral fees

Funeral directors are being pressed to provide itemised estimates for funerals. Edward Leigh, consumer affairs minister, said in a written reply that he had asked the National Association of Funeral Directors to amend their code of conduct. He was still awaiting a reply.

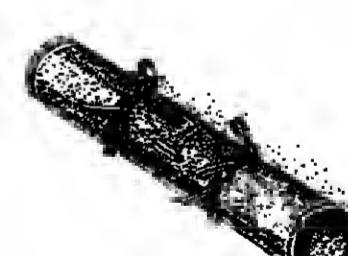
BCCI scheme

The scheme to allow customers of BCCI to receive 75 per cent of their sterling deposits up to a maximum of £15,000 will come into operation from December 2. John Maples, Treasury economic secretary, said.

HO, HO, HO!

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PARLIAMENT will be pro-

rogued on Tuesday and the Queen will open the new session, the last before the general election, on Thursday, October 31.

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be:

Monday: Debate on a govern-

ment motion on the NHS.

Tuesday: Consideration of any Lords amendments to the export and investment guar-

antees bill.

The main business in the Lords is expected to be:

Monday: Export and invest-

ment guarantees bill, third

reading.

Tuesday: Debate on political

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on

European environment law

Heseltine seeks to expose backsliders

By MICHAEL McCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

EUROPEAN Community countries that renege on their environmental commitments would be exposed in detail every year under a scheme to be proposed in Brussels by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary.

He is seeking to revolutionise EC environment policy with a monitoring programme of the green performance of all the member states, and of the European Commission itself. Such a system, he believes, would immediately

tighten enforcement of EC environmental laws by disclosing annually those countries that failed to comply with them.

Although he declines to give examples, there are many flagrant failures to implement EC environmental measures, such as the Italian government's unwillingness to enforce the Birds Directive by preventing the annual slaughter of thousands of birds of prey by Italian hunters.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Heseltine said: "Many of the people who sign up to these directives don't do anything about them. We can have a position where directives are acclaimed with enthusiasm, and then shelved with dispatch, except in this country." He said that the idea that Britain was "the dirty man of Europe" was nonsense, pointing out that Britain was fourth out of the 12 member states in the present league table of compliance with community law.

Ivory ban backed

BRITAIN is to send a minister to express the government's continued support for the international ivory trade ban at a UN conference that will consider reopening the trade. The move shows the government's determination to make its voice heard (Michael McCarthy writes).

Tony Baldry, a junior

environment minister, will lead a delegation to the meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in Japan next March, when six southern African countries will seek a lifting of the ban, which was imposed in 1989.

Leading article, page 17



Art regained: Anthea Pelham-Burne, left, and Valentine Walsh working at Islington Design Centre yesterday

Art fire restorers criticise planning

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

RESTORERS who undertook emergency work on paintings retrieved from last week's fire at the art shippers James Bourlet have criticised the company and loss adjusters for lack of disaster planning or precautions.

Damage by firemen's hoses could have been minimised, they say, had there been a list of restorers at hand as well as an order of priority for works to be saved. Paintings worth many millions of pounds were left to soak for 48 hours while police investigated the fire.

"I think it's a scandal that the loss adjusters didn't think of cutting down the loss by getting in conservators sooner," said Valentine Walsh.

A Bourlet spokesman said yesterday that after police permission to remove works of art from the strongroom, Bourlet's staff worked through the night of October 8-9 on a salvage operation. Specialist restorers worked throughout the next night.

Law Society conference

Indemnity costs 'unacceptable'

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

SOLICITORS' firms are under great strain and should no longer have to bear the costs of claims against dishonest or incompetent colleagues, Philip Ely, the Law Society president, said yesterday.

He said that during the recession the cost of staying in business had reached unacceptable levels and it was possible that some law firms would be driven out of business.

Mr Ely, addressing 600 solicitors at their annual conference in Brussels, said that one of the heaviest burdens on firms was the solicitors' indemnity fund. "Put crudely," he said, "does the existence of the fund encourage some solicitors to take risks they would not otherwise take, knowing that the rest of us are there to bail them out?"

Mr Ely outlined proposals for a cap on the amount paid out by the fund to victims of dishonest solicitors and the shake-up of the profession's compulsory indemnity fund so solicitors would have to carry a higher share of the risk.

Together, those two funds this year are expected to pay out about £160 million in claims against solicitors. "It now costs the average firm something like £27,000 per year simply to stay in practice," Mr Ely said. The total annual cost of a practising certificate, investment business certificate, indemnity insurance, and contribution to the compensation fund was



Woolf: concern for rights of citizen

Car leaflets ruling is upheld

THE growing practice of sticking advertising leaflets under windscreen wipers in public car parks can amount to a criminal offence, the High Court ruled in a test case yesterday.

Two judges upheld a conviction by magistrates at Chichester, West Sussex, against David Hickman, a wine bar owner, for leaving leaflets on vehicles in a council car park. Mr Hickman, aged 44, of Caledonian Road, Chichester, was found guilty in June last year of "using a vehicle" while in a parking place "for a purpose in connection with trade or business" contrary to the by-laws and in breach of the 1984 Road Traffic Regulations.

In the first case of its kind to come before the High Court, Lord Justice Neill and Mr Justice McCullough ruled that in law a vehicle could be said to be "used" even though it was stationary and parked.

Mr Hickman maintained that the aim of the by-laws was not to prevent leafletting but the use in car parks of vehicles with audio or visual advertising equipment.

Chichester district council, which brought the prosecution, said its primary concern was to prevent litter in Northgate car park from leaflets discarded by motorists. The judges ordered Mr Hickman to pay the council's legal costs of the appeal. The magistrates had given him a one-year conditional discharge.

Blood test dragnet to find killer

Police hunting the sex killer of Angela Flaherty, aged seven, whose body was found in a children's den near her home ten weeks ago, are to ask for blood samples from 600 boys and men in an attempt to match them to traces left by the murderer.

The move was announced as Det Supt Peter Bottomley, leading the enquiry, said that the estate where Angela lived in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, was tearing itself apart, with friends and neighbours suspecting each other. Any samples matching the killer's blood group will be tested against his DNA profile.

Mr Bottomley said that samples would be requested from males aged 13 to 26. He said the Rawthorpe estate was being torn apart by suspicion.

House must go

Islington council has won a court order requiring Latif Hoory to demolish a house built in his back garden at Essex Road, Islington, or be fined £200 a day. The council said demolition would have to be by hand because bulldozers could not get on to the site.

Drivers charged

A publicised two-week police campaign focusing on the driving to and from work of staff at the Sellafield nuclear processing site in Cumbria has ended with 178 people being charged, including five for drink driving.

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Americans try to fathom mind of 'human timebomb' after 23 die in Texas cafe shooting

Hennard fits mould of mass killer

From CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK

GEORGE Hennard, the man who killed 22 people in a Texas cafeteria, fits the standard profile of that increasingly common type, the American mass murderer. He is usually a white male aged between 25 and 35, very attached to his mother, a loner with a shaky ego and seething with pent-up anger over grievances real or imagined.

As police yesterday sought Hennard's "triggering event", the single incident which usually sparks a killer's rampage, experts said his behaviour conformed to the pattern which has sent at least 100 other men on similar missions of random murder over the past decade. Usually such mass killers have little background of psychiatric illness, but, sullen and highly irritable, they are regarded as "human timebombs" by those who know them.

Hennard's neighbours described him in precisely these terms. Rampage killers differ from serial killers, who murder strangers over a long period. These are often sociopaths who feel powerless and repeatedly kill in an attempt to control others. Unlike mass murderers, serial killers do not need a precipitating event and they lust after the celebrity that their crime brings them. Mass killers make one "social statement" before succumbing.

Middle East talks come a step nearer

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO AND RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

IN THE Middle East yesterday diplomatic speculation was rife that Presidents Bush and Gorbachev would fly to Lausanne, Switzerland, to act as co-hosts at the opening of a regional peace conference if James Baker, the US Secretary of State, succeeds in convening the talks as planned on October 29.

The semi-official Egyptian press quoted government sources in the Soviet Union as saying unequivocally that the two presidents would attend. White House officials did little to dampen the notion, emphasising that no final decision had yet been taken. "They both would be interested in getting the peace conference off to a good start," said Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, in reference to the two leaders. "But at this point, we just are not willing to make a commitment."

Soviet sources said that Mr Gorbachev was anxious to attend in person to demonstrate to the world that Moscow still had an important role to play in the Middle East. On Wednesday, he sent a message to a session of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's leadership in Tunis urging them to take part in the conference.

In the message, the Soviet leader urged the 90-strong central council of the PLO, which was convening to try to reach a decision on participation, to "take a positive stand towards the peace process". He added that the Palestinians, "with Soviet support for

Ozal view on Cyprus in balance

From ANDREW FINKEL
IN ISTANBUL

AS PRESIDENT Ozal's prospects of emerging unscathed from Sunday's Turkish election disappear, the impact of foreign policy is being calculated.

The pro-northern Cypriot lobby is taking some satisfaction that Turkey's commitment to seeing through a political settlement may now dwindle. Western diplomats portray Mr Ozal as one of the few politicians in Turkey to realise the price the country pays internationally for its lone support of a Turkish republic in northern Cyprus. Mr Ozal is known to have promoted during a visit by President Bush to Turkey last July, the current round of negotiations which are intended to culminate in a four-way summit in New York by the end of the year.

Although Mr Ozal still has five years to run, the Motherland party which he once led as prime minister faces defeat at the polls.

Pankin helping Baker to overcome final obstacles



Last exit: officials at the restaurant in Killeen, Texas remove the pick-up truck in which Hennard launched his rampage

done to me!", Mr Levin said. Bell County was probably an abstraction for the forces that he felt were arrayed against him. The more random the act, the greater are the chances that the killer is clinically insane, he said.

The first recorded incidents of mass murder coincided with the growth of cities and industrialisation in America. But it was rare, with only about one incident noted per decade until about the 1960s. Earlier cases involved mainly

the murder of a family by one of its members, a category which remains common.

Many experts have traced the emergence of the random killer to the brutalising pressures apparent throughout American society.

Slaughter fails to sway gun lobby

From SUSAN ELICKOTT IN WASHINGTON

THE deadliest mass shooting in American history looked unlikely yesterday to sway members of Congress to tighten gun control laws in a new anti-crime bill.

A close vote in the House of Representatives was expected last night on whether to retain from its draft package two measures banning gun magazines of more than seven rounds and certain types of semi-automatic assault weapons. But supporters of gun control expressed doubts about the details' impact.

The lower house began debate on the issue as police in Texas tried to find out how George Hennard, aged 35, obtained a Glock semi-automatic pistol which he used to kill 22 people in a crowded Texas cafeteria before turning the gun on himself in an apparent suicide.

Those wavering before the vote faced formidable lobbying by the National Rifle Association, which argues that criminals will get their hands on weapons and ammunition anyway and that law-abiding

citizens should not be denied their constitutional right to bear arms in self-defence. Mr Hennard's pistol was fitted with a 17-round magazine that allowed him to spray fire on diners, although a 19-round model of the partly plastic weapon is also available.

Thomas Foley, the Democratic House speaker, said the clause on semi-automatic assault weapons in the evolving bill would not cover the type of gun used in the massacre. He also predicted that the scheduled vote would be "very close" on an amendment by a conservative Democrat to drop the two measures.

The shooting on Wednesday in Killeen "will probably, if anything, push the vote closer in some kind of restriction on assault weapons", Mr Foley said, although many people would argue that there is no logical connection. But the speaker, himself a member of the NRA, added he was not sure that the effect would be great enough "to actually ban assault weapons".

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*D.O.T. official fuel economy figures for 205 XLD: 72.4mpg at constant 56mph, 34.3mpg at constant 75mph, 32.8mpg simulated urban driving. Cars illustrated 205 XLD £9,000, 309 GLD £10,200 (sunroof extra) and 405 GLD £13,400. All figures correct at time of going to press and subject to availability. Includes estimated on the road costs of 6 months Road Tax, Delivery and Number Plates. Metallic paint extra. Average cost £1.09 a gallon of diesel, so £250 = 123.85 gallons. Offers apply to new 205/309/405 diesel cars (excluding 205 van) registered between 2nd September and 26th November 1991. Applies to UK residents, excluding nationally negotiated fleets, tax free and employee sales and Northern Ireland where different offers apply.

Ukraine scuppers deal on economic union

AT VIRTUALLY the last minute the Ukraine has announced that it will not sign an inter-republican Soviet economic agreement today.

While President Gorbachev is bound to try to change the Ukrainian leaders' mind, the move by the union's second-largest republic strikes at the heart of the agreement. Mr Gorbachev had hoped that the agreement, to be signed by at least ten republics, would maintain the framework of a joint economy and preface an agreement on some form of political union.

The Ukrainian move seems, at first glance, likely to scupper Mr Gorbachev's plans to retain a unified economic space. But in current Soviet politics, in which governments in both Russia and the Ukraine often act with haste and incompetence, the Ukraine's refusal to sign may not be final.

Earlier this week, Vitold Fokin, the Ukraine's prime minister, confirmed that the Ukraine would be willing to thrash out an agreement. Yesterday the Ukraine's president said no. Today, after some hard bargaining between Kiev and Moscow, Mr

Gorbachev's attempt to keep a unified economy is in the balance as the Soviet bread basket rejects his plan, write Mary Dejevsky and Robert Seely

Gorbachev might manage to keep the two vital powers in the union.

The Ukrainians have, for the moment, rejected the treaty because their objections to the blueprint laid out in Alma Ata have not been answered. Kiev's displeasure centres on the view there that the treaty will not entail real political independence for the republics. The Ukraine wants its own currency, and its own customs and border posts to protect its agricultural produce. Almost 25 per cent of Soviet food supplies come from the wealthy Ukraine.

In Moscow, officials yesterday tried desperately to stem speculation that the agreement could again be postponed. Arkadi Volksy, a pro-Gorbachev member of the interim economic committee which currently functions as

the Soviet government, said he was confident that it would be signed.

Negotiations on the three-year agreement, which incorporates most of the economic aspects of the ill-fated Union Treaty, have been slow and difficult. The agreement sets out terms for an economic union (not, to the distress of some, a community or commonwealth) in which signatories pledge to abide by a common policy on currency, the money supply, taxation, customs regulations and pricing. They also undertake to fulfil all contracted deliveries — or provide the hard currency value of the goods to the receiving republic if they fail to deliver.

The chief problem is that all participants want to move directly from a system in which all lose out to an omnipotent centre to one in which they all gain. Republic leaders need to demonstrate to consumers that an agreement is in their interests. For the leaders of Russia in particular, that is not easy. All they can do is warn of the consequences of failure to agree, and utter dire threats of economic breakdown.



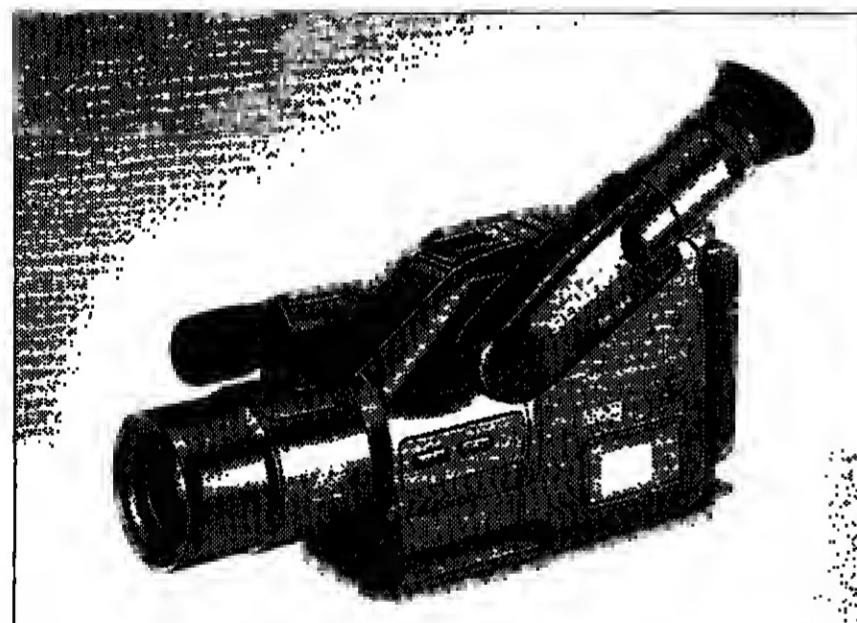
Aiming high: climbers recently trekking to the summit of Everest the hard way. From next year tourists will be able to book guided tours to the 29,028ft peak, the world's highest. Describing the trip as the ultimate travel experience, Himalayan Kingdoms, an agency specialising in high adventure, will from the autumn of 1993 take 15 clients, each willing to pay £11,000, up the legendary moun-

tain. "We are looking for people with climbing experience up to about 23,000 feet," Stephen Bell, the agency's director of expeditions, said. "But it is vital that they also be good team members." He said personal compatibility was almost more important than experience because Himalayan storms often forced climbers to share a high-altitude tent. "Everest is no place for individualists," he said. "We

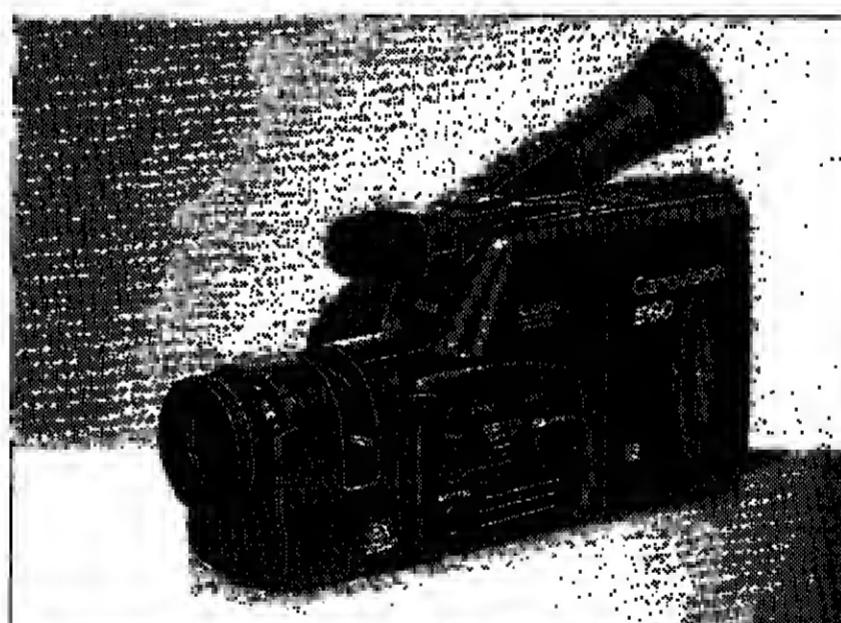
need adventurous and easy-going people; one disruptive team member will spoil it for everyone." Mr Bell has so far received deposits from 23 hopefuls whose ages range from 26 to 58 years. One person who has already been confirmed for the expedition is the actor Brian Blessed, aged 54. He has previously climbed higher than 25,000ft, dressed in hobnail boots and tweeds like those worn by George

Mallory, his boyhood hero who died on a British Everest expedition in 1924. Others who have signed up for the 1993 climb include a Venezuelan woman doctor, a Finnish bricklayer and climbers from America, Britain and Australia. The 71-day expedition will attempt the South Col, following in the route of Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing, who first conquered the peak. (Reuters)

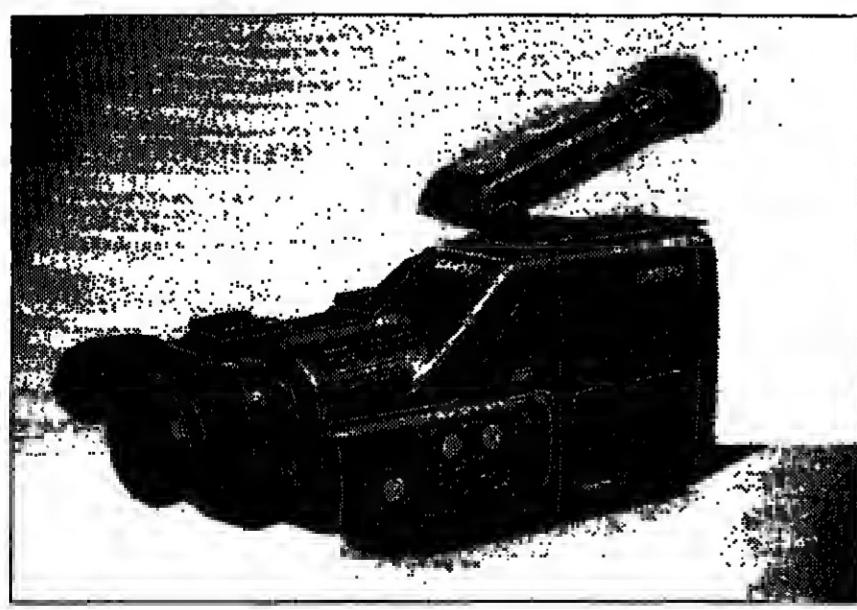
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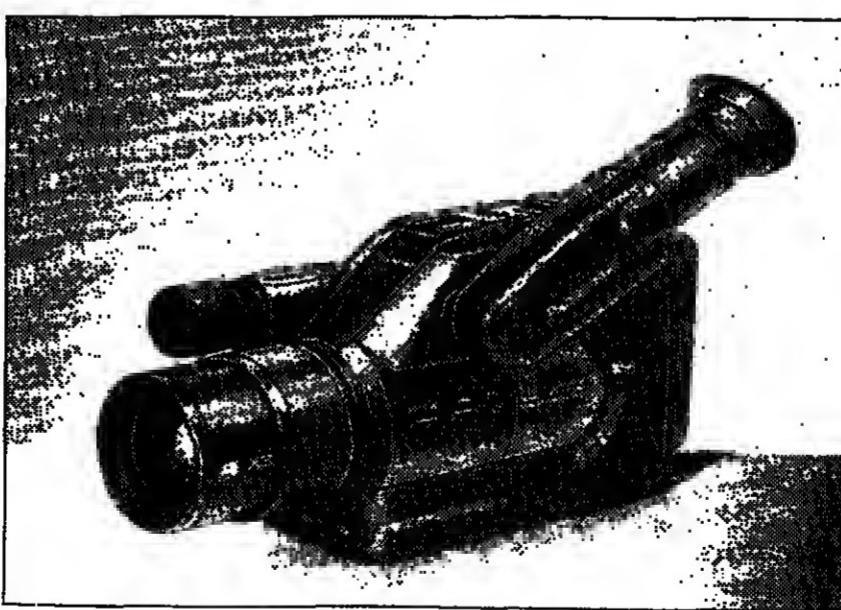
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Bonn minister under fire on proposed force

From MICHAEL EVANS IN TAORMINA, SICILY
AND IAN MURRAY IN BONN

GERHARD Stoltenberg, the German defence minister, was subjected to a barrage of questions by his Nato counterparts yesterday over the proposal by Bonn and Paris to form a Franco-German corps. Herr Stoltenberg insisted to his fellow defence ministers during a meeting supposed to be about nuclear strategy that the new defence formation would not harm the alliance.

The British and American ministers in particular wanted to be convinced that the Germans and French were not trying to create a "stand-alone" force. Tom King, the defence secretary, said last night that he had made it quite clear to Herr Stoltenberg that any new force that was "incompatible with Nato would not be acceptable."

The ministers had gathered in Taormina to discuss the way forward for Nato nuclear strategy and to resolve how many nuclear bombs should be removed from the stockpile. They decided to cut the numbers by half from about 1,400 to 700. But that decision was delayed until the afternoon to give ministers a chance to raise the issue of the Franco-German corps.

Mr King said the decision to reduce by half the number of air-launched bombs meant that Nato's tactical missiles and bombs will have been reduced to a tenth of the total ten years ago. Without giving precise figures he said the

number of bombs remaining in Nato's arsenal would be considerably less than 1,000.

On the subject of the Franco-German force, Herr Stoltenberg tried to persuade his colleagues that the whole idea was to draw the French more closely into Nato structures. Judging by the reactions of some of his colleagues, however, exactly what the Germans had in mind remained confused. Some British officials had believed the new corps was intended to operate only within Europe. Yet Herr Stoltenberg seemed to suggest just the opposite: that it would be for out-of-area operations.

Herr Stoltenberg was on his own in explaining what was behind the idea because the French defence minister never attends Nato nuclear planning group meetings. German sources said he was "stunned" by the reaction from the rest of the alliance.

Mr King and Richard Cheney, the American defence secretary, raised a whole series of questions. "We wanted to know what role was envisaged for this force, where it would be deployed and what German forces would be assigned to it," a senior British source said. Herr Stoltenberg told Mr King and Mr Cheney that no German troops would be taken out of the Nato military structure to man the corps. Instead they would be "double-hatted". A German military source added that the force "has been designed not to be harmful to Nato".

Mr King said that there were many questions which still needed to be answered by the Germans and the French. He said some Nato countries seemed happy to let the French and Germans develop their corps because of their general interest in forming a European defence policy. But Britain, the US, Italy, The Netherlands and others wanted further reassurance that the German troops were not being taken out of Nato.

Field Marshal Sir Richard Vincent, chief of the defence staff, emphasised that the corps envisaged was not the 100,000-strong formation suggested in Western newspapers in the past few days. He said a French corps was much smaller than a British one.

Sources in the Bonn chancellery insist that the initiative was a German one which has succeeded in bringing French and British attitudes on European defence closer together.

Mr King and Herr Stoltenberg on Wednesday night agreed a new detailed arrangement for British training areas in Germany.

The 51st meeting had been planned for Wurzburg in Germany but that has now been cancelled. In future both the group meeting and the defence ministers' other regular outing, the defence planning committee meeting, will both be conducted in Nato's exceptionally unattractive Brussels headquarters.

Stoltenberg: "stunned" by reaction of colleagues

Jay is in

Hand-to-hand battles rage in Croatian town as army leads attack

By VJEKOSLAV RADOVIC IN NEGOSLAVCI AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

SERBS and Croats fought hand-to-hand battles in the besieged Croatian town of Vukovar yesterday as Yugoslav army tanks spearheaded an attack. Croatian radio said the tanks, backed by infantry and Serbian irregulars, thrust across the Danube into a suburb of the town.

Thousands of Croat soldiers and civilians earlier joined a mass exodus from besieged Croatian areas, as the federal army appeared prepared for a final onslaught on the breakaway republic.

In another offensive the Yugoslav army yesterday attacked the area around the



medieval city of Dubrovnik on Croatia's Adriatic coast, Tassug news agency reported. The attack was a land, air and sea offensive, it said.

Amid scenes of mass confusion, up to 8,000 Croats left the town of Ilok, downstream of Vukovar on the Danube boundary with Serbia. They had opted to leave the town, located on an indefensible spit of land sticking deep into Serbia, after the federal army last week ordered the defenders to surrender or face an all-out assault.

After the Croats said they would surrender, the army declared it would guarantee the safety of any civilians who chose to remain. But it was

unclear whether any would, given their fear of the armed Serbs who are likely to follow the federal troops into Ilok. "Nobody is forcing these people out of Ilok, least of all the army," said Colonel Petar Grahovac, the commander of the army unit that entered the town.

From the village of Negoslavci, four miles on the other side of Vukovar, army artillery poured round after round on to the town. Federal air force jets flew overhead as black smoke rose from Vukovar. There was also fighting in towns around Vukovar and in several other parts of Croatia, further denting peace hopes on the eve of a European Community conference on Yugoslavia in The Hague.

"They are... perhaps the heaviest attacks since the beginning of hostilities," the radio said. It said 20 tanks and more than 100 soldiers from the federal army had pushed into Vukovar.

Tanjug news agency in Belgrade, the Serbian and Yugoslav capital, quoted military sources as saying the Croats had tried to reinforce their positions in Vukovar and had opened fire on army units in nearby Osijek.

Croatian radio said heavy casualties were feared in Vukovar. It said five people were killed and 17 were wounded in overnight fighting in Nova Gradiška, in central Croatia. A federal warplane was shot down over nearby Osijek. The radio also reported that the western town of Otočac had been attacked from the air yesterday morning but gave no details.

Yugoslav generals stage final push to avoid humiliation

By ROGER BOYES, EAST EUROPE CORRESPONDENT

THE Yugoslav army, which yesterday spearheaded a fierce attack on Vukovar, may have embarked on its last key offensive for some months. Since last month, the generals have been determined to break the siege of trapped garrisons in eastern Croatia and ensure an unbroken line of communications throughout Slavonia with its mixed Serb and Croat communities.

A new urgency surrounds yesterday's offensive: there are a few external factors - above all the need to secure eastern Croatia before an oil embargo depletes the army's fuel reserves - but the main reason for swift action is that the generals are confronting that most persuasive of military scenarios, the prospect of a war on many fronts. This possibility, triggered by the threat of a declaration of

independence from Bosnia-Herzegovina, is changing the terms of the political debate in Yugoslavia. Paradoxically it might, at least for a short time, improve the chances of the various peace brokers from the European Community, the United Nations and Moscow.

Throughout the summer the high command was very careful not to overstretch its resources. After a humiliating setback in the eight-day war in June against Slovenia, General Blagoje Adzic, the chief of staff, declared that the army should concentrate on Croatia and defend the Serbian enclaves there. "We will carry them through to the end," he had told field officers.

But the "end" is no longer so obvious. The Croat government of Franjo Tuđman has

not been overthrown - one possible military aim - while the broader goal of achieving a "greater Serbia" is growing more complicated by the day.

To establish a "greater Serbia" the army needs to do more than keep hold of the Serbian enclaves in Croatia; it must also move on behalf of the Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Yet to do so would meet certain resistance from Bosnian Muslims and Croats.

That was plain from this week's session of the Bosnian parliament at which deputies declared their readiness to declare independence if Yugoslavia falls apart. Since that declaration of intent, Bosnian deputies have been taking the precaution of wearing bullet-proof vests.

The Yugoslav high command now faces the following prospects:

□ The continuing territorial and tactical war with Croatia is tying down huge numbers of soldiers and material in Slavonia. The barracks in Belgrade are virtually empty, and so are the army coffers despite the printing of more money to pay for food and salary bills.

□ The army is also coming under more pressure in Slovenia. Today the deadline expires for the complete withdrawal of Yugoslav forces from Slovenia. The Slovene leadership has said that it will not allow further withdrawals after the deadline and will impound equipment as collateral against war reparations, reflecting Slovenia's confidence that the balance of power in Slovenia has shifted its way.

□ A continuing, even growing need to police Kosovo where ethnic Albanians, partly encouraged by the newly democratic regime in Tirana, are straining at the leash, will overstretch the resources of the Yugoslav army.

UK acts on drugs from East

FROM GERARD DAVIES
IN PRAGUE

BRITAIN said yesterday it will help Czechoslovakia set up a special intelligence unit to combat drug smuggling through the Balkans. Czechoslovak police will be trained in drug interception techniques and the two countries will consider a joint treaty on countering profits from drug trafficking. The Home Office announcement followed two days of talks in London.

There are fears that democracy has triggered a new wave of trafficking to Britain through the former Eastern bloc. About 220lb of high purity cocaine, worth £1 million, has been intercepted on the Polish-Czechoslovak border en route from Colombia and drug experts believe more could be on its way to the West via the Baltic Sea. About 70 per cent of heroin reaching the West is thought to pass through Czechoslovakia.

Police and customs officers say that the Iron Curtain has become a revolving door for an Eastern underworld whose members can travel in virtually unprotected territory with few borders, relatively low penalties and outdated detection methods. They say the new wave of drugs has reached the shores of Britain and even the United States behind the backs of customs officers waiting for smugglers from the West.

Designer look goes from riches to rags

DENZIL MCNEELAND

From LIZ SMITH
FASHION EDITOR
IN PARIS

The Japanese designer Rei Kawakubo, who pioneered the deconstructed style of tailoring in the Eighties with her Comme des Garçons lop-sided jackets, often with backs and sleeves missing, has taken the ragtag look a step further. In Paris yesterday she showed what looked like the makings of an interesting collection, but most of the clothes were unfinished.

Her fabrics ranged from the paper and calico of the first toile to lining silk. Pinstriped jackets and tan-coloured trencosuits complete with lapels and epaulettes had raw edges, loose threads and bits missing. Jewellery and hosiery were improvised, and sketched on to the models' necks, arms and ankles. The catwalk was left as a bare boardwalk.

What might have been an amusing satire of the fashion business if the show had been limited, to just a few outfitts at the start of the show, ended up as a farce. There were enough pretty ideas and beautiful fabrics to make the exercise frustrating to watch. None of the original ideas was carried off successfully.



Unfinished collection: Rei Kawakubo's designs for the Comme des Garçons fashion house (left and right) featured pretty ideas in the raw state, while Chantal Thomass used an African theme (centre) for part of her ready-to-wear collection

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Reprise for world's poorest nations marks Major's commitment to Commonwealth

UK sets pace in Third World debt write off

BRITAIN is to go ahead with plans to cancel debts owed by the poorest developing countries, whether or not other creditor nations agree.

The announcement by John Major at the meeting of Commonwealth heads of government in Harare yesterday was made in the light of the prime minister's irritation with other key members of the "Paris Club". Countries such as Japan and the United States have been dithering over implementing the so-called Trinidad Terms for writing off two-thirds of the \$26.5 billion (£15.6 million) worth of government-to-government debt owed by the poorest countries.

The British action was designed to pressure other creditors into doing likewise. It was also timed to underline Mr Major's commitment to the Commonwealth and won him many plaudits.

Brian Mulroney, the Canadian prime minister, who had been squared off before hand, immediately announced that his country would follow suit. Bob Hawke, the Australian prime minister, also promised the "most favourable consideration".

Mr Major first set out his plan for the debt write-off at a Commonwealth finance minister's meeting when he was Chancellor in 1990. He has pursued it since then through the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations and the G7 meeting which he chaired in London in July. But he has been frustrated by the lack of progress and yesterday's move was designed to put pressure on a

Britain's unilateral action aims to force Japan and America to follow suit, writes Robin Oakley from the Harare summit

Paris Club meeting next week.

"This initiative will not be allowed to fail," Mr Major told his fellow heads of government yesterday. "If agreement cannot be reached at the Paris Club in the very near future, the United Kingdom, acting in concert with as many of our Paris Club colleagues as possible, will implement the Paris Club terms."

The Paris Club has been seeking agreement on the cancellation terms and rescheduling of the remaining debt. The debtor nations would have to accept IMF programmes for their economies, cancel "white elephant" projects and cut defence expenditure in some cases. Countries eligible for the help are those with a gross domestic product of less than \$600 per head of population and debt service ratios of 25 per cent or more.

Debt owed to the British government is \$1.3 billion out of the total, so some £550 million would be written off. The countries standing to benefit the most are Zambia (with £187 million in outstanding debt), Tanzania (£166 million), Guyana (£103 million), Zaire (£90 million) and Mozambique (£87 million). Under the arrangements proposed, the benefiting countries would not

Man in the news

Gentle chief sets mark on summit

By ROBIN OAKLEY

HARARE has seen the emergence from the backrooms of Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the Commonwealth secretary-general, who will be its voice between now and the next summit two years from now.

A soft-spoken, impeccably dressed Nigerian who epitomises African politeness, Chief Anyaoku was disengaged by some during last year's contest to succeed the overtly political Sonny Ramphal. His detractors saw him as a conciliator under whom the Commonwealth might fade into obscurity as it neared the end of its role as an anti-apartheid pressure group.

But Chief Anyaoku then said: "My ways of acting as deputy to Sonny Ramphal must not be confused with what I will do when I am number one." He showed the mettle of his quiet style of politics by comprehensively out-lobbying Malcolm Fraser, the former Australian prime minister, to win the post.

And, after refusing every interview in his days as a loyal number two, he is now reveal-

ing in his higher profile and playing a key role in seeking to make the Commonwealth a beacon for democracy and human rights. He was the one, for example, who finally persuaded President Kaunda to take the multiparty route and hold elections in Zambia.

Watching Chief Anyaoku greet the guests at the secretary-general's cocktail party, social event at which prime ministers outnumber the canapés, it was easy to see why he won the job. Every guest, from whatever corner of the Commonwealth, received a personal greeting.

"The chief never forgets a name or a face," one colleague said. A Commonwealth worker from Papua New Guinea added: "He knows more people in the Pacific than I do."

Now aged 58, the chief entered Commonwealth service in 1966 and, but for a brief spell back in Nigeria in 1983, has been there ever since. He became deputy general-secretary in 1977.

"He is gentle, but does not bend," said one admiring worker for a Commonwealth human rights organisation. What is more surprising is that Chief Anyaoku, now serving his 13th heads of government meeting, retains the enthusiasm to seek to breathe new life into the organisation.

The test for him now is to shake up the secretariat to ensure that posts are held on ability and not influence. He must re-allocate resources within a stretched budget to back up the brave talk about extending democracy, for which the provision last year was a mere £175,000.



Anyaoku: said to never forget a name or a face

Kenyan holds whip hand in wife control

From FRANCES KERRY IN KISUMU, KENYA

AKUKU Ansentus Ogwelli, Kenya's most married man, has simple but stern advice for marital harmony: if your wife gets too rowdy or disobedient, give her a few strokes with a whip. He should know — he has 40 wives to control.

Now aged 72, Mr Ogwelli also has more than 200 children, 700 grandchildren and 80 great-grandchildren. Some wives did not last the course. Mr Ogwelli says he has divorced 85 women. They fell into three categories: too confrontational, too physically weak or no good as farm workers.

His male chauvinist approach to women and marriage may outrage feminists, but husbands having problems getting along with just

one wife gather to hear his homilies on family life, delivered in a cafe in the western town of Kisumu.

Mr Ogwelli, a farmer and bar-owner, houses his family on smallholdings in south Nyanza district near Lake Victoria. He was born in 1918 of a father who had 45 wives. "It is the bloodline," he said.

Mr Ogwelli says he loves and respects all his wives but will not tolerate arguments from them. "If one of them gets out of hand, a family court decides the punishment," he said. "That might be a few days' hard work. At the end of it she has to ask me for forgiveness. If that fails, then it is five strokes with a special whip." (Reuters)



Ring of confidence: John Major and Bob Hawke, the Australian prime minister, apparently on top of the world at a reception given by the Queen after the opening of the 28th Commonwealth Heads of Government summit in Harare

Kano riots put polls in doubt

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT Babangida of Nigeria called an emergency meeting of the National Security Council yesterday to discuss religious riots in Kano, in the north, that left at least 20 people dead.

But it was not clear if the three-day rampage would affect the gubernatorial elections and state assembly primaries scheduled for tomorrow. These are an important step towards a return to civilian rule by next September.

Security forces have tightened their grip on the city after fierce fighting between Christians and Muslims, residents said. Major-General Babangida cut short a visit to the Commonwealth summit in Zimbabwe and returned home on Wednesday.

Kano residents said the atmosphere in the mainly Muslim city remained tense yesterday. There were fears of fresh violence, especially after today's Muslim prayers.

The Vatican has set up a mission in Kano, the Holy See announced. The mission would "intensify the evangelical work of the church in areas still without structure".

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THE TIMES FRIDAY OCTOBER 18 1991

Cambodian reform

Rival asks Sihanouk to accept presidency

By DAVID WATTS IN LONDON AND JAMES PRINGLE ON THE THAI-CAMBODIAN BORDER

HU SEN, the Cambodian prime minister, has invited Prince Norodom Sihanouk, his former rival, to become president. His dramatic gesture clears the way for next week's Paris peace conference.

He made the announcement at the opening of the sixth congress of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary party in Phnom Penh, setting the tone for a gathering which will shed communist dogma and officially approve the increasingly free-market character of the country's economy. Striking from his prepared text, Mr Hun said he thought it was necessary to have a Cambodian personality with enough pluck to sway the country's electorate to vote for him. He proposed that the party should support the prince as the president of Cambodia in a future Cambodian election, adding that this was the best solution to steer Cambodia away from new political crisis.

As Hun spoke, Heng

Samrin, the current president and party leader, was said to look tired and dejected. The two men had reportedly had an argument the previous night about his removal from the presidency.

The party is to bring in a series of reforms during its two-day conclave, and to rename itself the Cambodian People's party. Its new manifesto declares: "All Cambodian citizens have the right to the freedom of religious beliefs, assembly, publication and defence in courts." It says Cambodians have the right to set up trade unions. Buddhism is supported as the state religion and religious minorities are granted rights.

On economic policy, the opening up of the financial market, banking and insurance sectors will be encouraged. A tax policy will be adopted "to promote economic and social development". The draft promises government help in developing the infrastructure of transport and communications.

Cambodia's new foreign policy includes a pledge "not to enter into any military alliance or pact that is against the permanent neutrality of Cambodia". In a reference to the Khmer Rouge, under whose rule a million Cambodians probably died, the party firmly opposed the recurrence of the "holocaust".

A senior Khmer Rouge official said yesterday that Cambodian refugees in Thailand should only go back to Cambodia voluntarily. Recent reports have claimed that more than 1,000 people have been returned to Cambodia by the Khmer Rouge by deception in order to build up their electoral support. The official hinted that a Khmer Rouge hardliner known as Nyxon, who has threatened to force thousands of refugees back into Cambodia, was a maverick who had embarrassed senior officials just days before the signing of peace accords. It was not clear whether he had acted alone or at the behest of others.



Death in Mexico: Chia-Chia, London Zoo's giant panda, who has died, aged 19, while on breeding loan in Mexico City. He died of peritonitis caused by a perforated ulcer

Sikhs blamed for bomb deaths

From COOMI KAPOOR
IN DELHI

MORE than 40 people were killed and 100 injured in two separate bomb blasts in the Himalayan foothills of Terai, a region of Uttar Pradesh state in northern India. The bombs are thought to be the work of Sikh extremists seeking revenge for the controversial killing of ten Sikh youths in July, but no group has claimed responsibility.

This is the first serious incident of terrorism in the tranquil Himalayan foothills,

far from the troubled border state of Punjab. The bombs are thought to have been exploded as a retaliatory action for the gunning down of ten youths by the Uttar Pradesh police in Pilibhit district.

The Uttar Pradesh police say the Sikhs were terrorists killed in a shoot-out with the police, but many local people and the national press say the dead were pilgrims who had been ordered off a bus and then shot in cold blood.

The death toll in Wednesday night's bomb blast is expected to rise since many of the injured are in critical condition. Several of those killed died in a stampede after the first explosion, which was reportedly set off by remote control. A large crowd was watching a performance of scenes from a holy Hindu text telling the story of Lord Rama at the time. The scenes are enacted nightly during the festival season of Dusshera. The second bomb went off 20 minutes later at the hospital in Rudrapur to which the injured were being taken.

The blasts have shaken the tranquil hill district of Nainital, and all shops and establishments in the foothill towns of Haldwani and Rudrapur were closed in protest yesterday. A large number of Sikh farmers have migrated to the region during the past two decades and have managed, by dint of hard work, to transform rocky terrain into fertile fields.

Violence by Sikh extremists fighting to establish a separate homeland of Khalistan by making the northwest Indian state of Punjab secede has increased in recent months. More than 3,000 people have died this year in terrorist-related incidents in Punjab, a far higher toll than last year.

Liviu Radu, Romania's acting ambassador to India, was kidnapped in Delhi last week by extremists demanding freedom for some jailed comrades. Despite a house-to-house search in Delhi, police hunting for him seem to have made little progress.

Police in Delhi said on Wednesday that they had shot a terrorist in the capital's octagonal plaza of Connaught Place in full view of a large crowd.

TOKYO NOTEBOOK by Joanna Pitman

Skin ladies under threat from the Pill

J

Japan's door-to-door sales

women come in two

forms.

Some rap smartly

on the door and with a click of the heels and an FBI-style flash of their Nomura Securities business cards, they have one spruce shoulder pad over the threshold and are half-way to hosting an equity investment coffee morning for landladies, but loaded, housewives.

The other type wears

diamante-studded stilettos,

a slinky cocktail dress and

make-up as thick as a Kabuki actor.

She warbles sweet greetings on the doorstep, then insinuates a limb in 15-denier stockings round the door. In no time she has sold a gross of condoms.

Both species are in danger.

The Nomura sales ladies have

been ordered off the streets by

the omnipotent finance min-

istry, which wants to punish

Nomura for its recent finan-

cial mischief. They will not be

back for six weeks.

Japan's itinerant purveyors

of condoms, however, known

in some circles as "skin la-

dies", face a more serious

threat.

At the beginning of

next year the welfare ministry

will declare open season in

Japan for sales of the contra-

ceptive pill.

Oral contraceptives have

been banned in Japan, except

in some medical circum-

stances, because, the ministry

says, they have unpleasant

side-effects. "Japanese doctors

have created a lucrative abor-

tion industry for themselves,

and they have opposed the

introduction of the pill," said

Yuriko Ashina, executive sec-

retary of the Japanese family

planning association.

Murder claims denied

Manila — Raul Manglapus, the foreign secretary of the Philippines, has described as malicious and false charges aired on the American ABC television network that he had hired a mercenary to kill military rebel leaders and enemies of President Aquino (Abby Tan writes).

Mr Manglapus said in a prepared statement that he would not dignify the "malicious charge" of Jack Terrel, a mercenary who claimed he was paid \$30,000 (£17,500) in July 1990 to kill leaders of the Reform Armed Forces Movement, the army rebel group, and their civilian supporters.

Mr Manglapus said that, if unanswered, however, the charges might sabotage continuing talks with fugitive rebels to surrender. "The charge is categorically false," he said. "I have not plotted to kill anyone. I have not paid money to anyone to undertake murder on my behalf."

Suicide threat

Hong Kong — Leaders at Hong Kong's largest camp for Vietnamese boat people, holding 24,000 people, claim they will commit suicide "in droves" rather than be forcibly repatriated. "We have a slogan: 'There will be blood and flowers instead of blood and tears,'" one said. The leaders said the people would not agree to return to Vietnam while the Communists were in power. (Reuters)

Peking visitor

Peking — Zou Jiahua, a Chinese deputy prime minister since April, is due in Britain on Wednesday. He will be the highest-ranking Chinese visitor since the 1989 shooting of pro-democracy demonstrators in Peking. The choice of Mr Zou is thought to be a compromise: he is a rising star in Peking politics who is aligned with the hardliners but his name does not evoke images of the army suppression.

Overdose death

Bangkok — Yavuz Yavuz, aged 31, the general manager of Turkey's Denizbank, died of a drug overdose while attending the World Bank-International Monetary Fund conference here. Major-General Tassana Suwanjutha, director-general of Thailand's Institute of Forensic Medicine, said. A post-mortem examination had revealed a lethal dose of heroin.

Poor loser

Jakarta — A bull elephant charged a crowd of 1,000 people in northern Indonesia when its mate lost a tug-of-war, the *Swara Karya* said. The newspaper said the male, escaped from its trainers in the city of Banda Aceh and ran amok when it heard the female elephant's cries after it was beaten by a team of 40 local officials. (Reuters)

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or compromise.

Japan's medical lobby may be colorfully strong, but the pharmaceutical firms seem stronger. They plan to manufacture the pill under license and have visions of a \$50 billion yen (£2.2 billion) annual market. They have offered sufficient incentives to

keep up with the Joneses (Japan)

the doctors to persuade them to accept the pill. For the skin ladies, however, there is to be no such pay-off.

Kioko Kimura is the leading skin lady for *My Show*, a small condom-distributing company. She is doing uncommonly good business this week but fears that the pill will end her career.

For now, young housewives are her ideal target because "they are usually so embarrassed that they will do anything to get rid of me", she said with a saucy smile. She is so successful, indeed, that she recently goaded the faithful wife of a company president into buying two gross of condoms although her husband works 200 miles away and returns only once a month.



Print which limits the subject's sexuality: Barlach's *Lilith*

Rimbaud recalled

FRENCH poetry has found an unlikely champion on this side of *la Manche*. Next month the Plymouth Arts Centre pulls out all the stops to mark the centenary of the death of Arthur Rimbaud. It is mounting a three-day festival (November 14-16) that includes a performance of *Un cœur sous une souffre*, the stage comedy written by the poet when he was 16, a talk by Margaret Drabble, and poetry readings and seminars. Plymouth is also hosting a travelling exhibition put together by the Musée Rimbaud, and a show of paintings done by Rimbaud-inspired artists.

Bee's knees

A PAINTING called *The Beekeeper's Son* has won

Andrzej Jackowski the £20,000 first prize in the seventeenth John Moores Liverpool Exhibition, which opened at the Walker Art Gallery yesterday. The landscape will take prime position in the show which runs until January 19, and then be hung permanently in the gallery alongside previous winners by David Hockney and others.

Last chance...

NAKAMURA Kankuro V, Bando Tamasaburo V: the very names of the chief actors emphasise the ancestry of the Kabuki art which they proceed to prove subtle and fascinating. Theirs is a mythic world of dancing butterflies and clattering monsters. *The Grand Kabuki*, which is an excellent introduction to the genre's mysteries, ends its run at the Lyttelton theatre (071-928 2252) on Saturday.

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A cut above the grotesque

John Russell Taylor revels in the unclassifiable art of Ernst Barlach, on display at the Goethe Institute

current show, Ernst Barlach: Graphic Works, so valuable. The characteristic Barlach line appears almost as much in his sculpture as in his prints.

As is demonstrated by the show's single brozz, *Monks Reading III*, Barlach had a phenomenal skill in devising a sculptural shape which would present a dramatic outline from all angles. It almost seems as if a series of prints could emerge if an artist slowly circled the sculpture and just drew what he saw.

There are, indeed, often close connections between prints and sculptures. And, to reverse the comparison, there are few makers of woodcuts who leave the spectator more vividly conscious that the basis of the process is actually sculpting in wood.

All the same, he occupies a unique place in 20th century art, for the strength of his vision and the extraordinary power of his line. That is what makes the Goethe Institute's

a way of exploring subjects that Barlach found particularly to his taste. Most powerful is probably the only one which is shown in its entirety, *The Face of God* (1920-21), which consists of just seven images. Here the wooden medium is used with particular felicity to evoke a terrible God, such as Blake had earlier conceived him.

By comparison, the series of woodcuts that Barlach published in 1923 to accompany Goethe's *Walpurgisnacht* show both his strengths and his limitations: he is completely at home with the horrors and grotesqueries, but seems at a loss when it comes to delineating the sexuality of Lilith or the pure beauty of Gretchen. The less corporeal ecstasies of Schiller's *An die Freude* are more

suitable to his elevated vision; he can cope better with joy than with jollity.

The lithographs in the show are in curious contrast to the woodcuts, partly because they are mostly earlier. The first major series, *Die tote Dog*, was published in 1912, when Barlach was already 42 but still finding his way. Ten out of the 27 in the portfolio are included, and they have their own kind of power. Well they might, given the grim clarity of misfortunes they chronicle. But there is also something about the sheer labour of carving wood which brings Barlach's vision into sharp focus; without it, he seems strong in the basic idea but woolly in the expression.

Now that the Goethe Institute has provided this foretaste, some London museum should go further, and stage the show of Barlach's sculpture that would set the British art-world by its ears.

• Ernst Barlach: Graphic Works, Goethe Institute, 50 Princes Gate, SW7 (071-5344), until Nov 15.

Lithograph chronicling human misfortune: *Love i Sorrow*



Steely vessels in a marble sea

Sculpture to admire, feel, explore: Richard Cork on two shows of Sir Anthony Caro



Poised and flowing: Caro's *Night Movements*, softened by orange staining and luxuriant boughs of green steel

associations should not be exaggerated. The tower's links with architecture remain strong, recalling the corkscrew gyrations of Tatlin's model for a *Monument to the Third International*. When compared with Tatlin's unrealized masterpiece, however, Caro's perversity becomes far more pronounced.

At times, the quirkiness of Gaudí seems to be Caro's guiding influence. The crazily misshapen archways are surely infected with the sublime intoxication of Barcelona's greatest architect, and Caro may also have been wandering in his imagination through *Menzbau*, the Hanover house which Schwitters transformed into a highly charged warren of spaces, before allied bombs flattened it.

Whenever the tower is filled with visitors, though, it becomes animated by the interplay between "sculpture" and their bending, probing limbs. In a real sense, the work cannot fulfil its potential

without this all-important human presence, and a similar tension informs two of the other exhibits. Both were inspired by a visit to Olympia, where the carvings executed for the Temple of Zeus are preserved, fragmented yet powerful. Although divorced from the building they embellished, the centaurs and deities are still controlled by the shape of the pediments which once contained them.

Caro aims at a similar balance of forces in *After Olympia*, where a profusion of fused, billowing, erect and battered components are governed by a triangular format in a 77-foot frieze of rusted and varnished steel. At first glance, the entire piece resembles a destroyed beacon in drydock after a vigorous enemy engagement. Gradually, however, the navel metaphor gives way to a more corporeal alternative. Without sparing the Temple of Zeus literally, Caro's elements of the interpenetrating restlessness

which runs through the temple's west pediment.

Caro is allowing the human figure to play a more prominent part in his recent sculpture, even if he retains the right to deploy a high degree of abstraction as well. The two sides come together in *Xanadu*, where girder-like uprights in dark steel contrast with more rounded, pale forms indebted to the female figures

Caro admires in Matisse's

1916 painting, *Bathers by a River*.

Matisse's rigorous composition is enlivened by an outburst of burgeoning riverside leaves, and organic growth also explodes at intervals in Caro's tower, where one platform sprouts a tangle of plant-like forms.

Although its starting-point

was, apparently, Courbet's

tree paintings, *Night Movements* refuses to be pinned

down to a single meaning. Walking between the work's four parts is certainly akin to moving through a heavily foliated wood. Luxuriant ears of stained green steel will out to brush you; swaying forms offer protection.

The staining is spiced quite freely, allowing the rust to remain visible as orange splashes in many places. They give the surfaces a insouciance which the even-painted tower lacks. Indeed, the musical flow and poise of *Night Movements* comes as a relief after the sombre, sometimes oppressive ruminations of the more hulky exhibits.

T his sprightly work has a spottiness which distinguishes the tumbling carting and cascading table-topps displayed in Caro's current show at Anely Judd Art. Here he is at his most balletic, using the table-topps plinths but allowing the steppements to tumble and dangle over the edges with irrepressible zest.

At 67, he shows no sign of slowing up or complacently reiterating a proven formula. Caro is no more static than his most flamboyant work. Risk-taking fires him still, and is continuing ability to extend the boundaries of sculpture suggests that his development will be peppered with further surprises in the year ahead.

• Sculpture towards Architecture is at the Tate Millbank, SW1 (071-821 1343). Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm; Sun 12.30-5pm until Jan 26. Anely Judd Art, 23 Dering Street, W1 (01-629 7578), until Nov 30.

To rich to smile? See Sex

Sex

Laurie Taylor on v

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A poor little rich girl from Streatham holds audience in the Ritz to tell Kate Muir some of the unexpected hardships of the catwalk



To rich to smile? but Naomi Campbell says that she is paid much less than the top white models

D. FINEMAN

Life can be tough on only £10,000 a day

The Ritz is filled with the gentle rustle of Chanel carrier bags, and the clash of perfumes. It is an ideal place to make an entrance, what with the inlaid marble proper red carpet, revolving doors and lines of suppliant waiting bellboys.

So when Naomi Campbell — £10,000-a-day supermodel* in tabloidese — explodes from the Paris night, a mere hour-and-a-half late, there is suitable staring and pointing.

The lobbyful of the filthy rich in near-little suits is not quite sure how to take about 8ft of black panther with long orange hair. Some look aghast. Others, in the know, realise it is une supermodel, here for the Spring-Summer ready-to-wear designer shows. They also know it is une scandale what those girls are paid.

Ms Campbell, all arms and leggings, is now flitting between the hotel's three private phoneboxes, leaving callers hanging on. A small queue builds up, too terrified to interfere. The bellboy is transfixed.

At last, the woman who wanted to scotch the rumours that supermodels were overpaid and behaved like royalty is ready to talk. "I'm starving. I want chips," she says. A waiter crosses the bar to her seat by the live harpist. "You got French fries?" she says. He looks puzzled. "Pommes frites?" The harpist plucks louder. The waiter will only serve drinks. She orders a tomato juice and a strawberry bellini.

This week has been bad one for Ms Campbell and her kind, her kind being Linda Evangelista, Christy Turlington, Cindy Crawford, Tatjana Patitz and Claudia Schiffer. The world's most expensive models have been horribly lambasted for earning sums like £11,700 for one show (Ms Evangelista for Lanvin), and for acting up like Hollywood-style goddesses. Ms Campbell is the only British model in the big league, and the only black one.

Although constantly included in the same breath of abuse, she claims to make less than the rest. "First of all, I don't earn a million a year," she says sliding out of an Azzedine Alaïa leather jacket to

reveal flesh, or at least something so loosely crocheted it was debatable if it could be defined as a garment.

"And I don't like the word supermodel. I'm not as marketable as the other top models because I'm black." So although she earns much the same on the catwalk, she misses out on the £2m contracts with cosmetics companies which the top white models add to their wage packets. "You can't sell white cosmetics on black skin, and there aren't any big companies out there who cater for ethnic women."

Her poverty, as such, is not enough to make you weep into your bellini, but Ms Campbell does have a point.

She says she is offered "nowhere near" the same amount of money as the big blonde Americans and Germans for the same jobs, and that their faces can appear again and again on the front of international *Vogue* and *Elle*.

She is used much less, as publishers like token equality, but secretly fear black cover girls reduce impulse buys. She claims to be the first and only black face to appear so far in the front of *French Vogue*. "I've got used to it. There are times when I just don't fit in. When I'm not part of things."

She makes a similar point about complaints in various newspapers that she always looks sulky, so rich she doesn't have to smile. "That's just the way my face is. That's what my lips are like."

She can sound sulky, though, especially when called in her £300-a-night room early in the morning, early in this case being 11am. She sounds precisely like higher pitched Tom Waits, the singer well known for his gravelly voice. Not surprising, then, that Ms Campbell is to launch her singing career soon, and is working on an album. She is also mindful of the shelf-life of beauty.

She describes her music as "rockish and raw", whatever that means. "And the lyrics are not too old for me I mean I'm only 21, and I don't want to talk about love, love, love, because I don't really know much about it yet." She veers between sweet innocence, and attempted worldliness, as does her accent. Her original Streatham, "sar" London, is far more naive sentences, but slips into light American when poise is required. She has just finished studying with a voice coach in case Hollywood calls.

What this meeting comes closest to, the realisation suddenly comes, is talking to Kylie Minogue in acid. All through the voice changes, wriggling and sudden gesticulations, she is eating peanuts, cashew nuts, raisins, homemade crisps and mini fruit kebabs and biscuits with pink sludge. It is gastronomically and psychologically disturbing.

The physical aspect is another worry. If this is the perfect modern body, it is eternally hip to be hipless. Curves are sparse icon, just as they were in the 1960s. Twiggy. Strange that those two decades should produce models who made the leap from clotheshorse to thumbtacked, but the times between should not.

Ms Campbell puts it down to the hard work and professionalism of the modern girl, although she hastens to say she is there to show the clothes, not herself. Somehow, though, certain models have leapt the barrier of autumny personalities, and have become catwalk personalities, so much so that those lacking their names get less attention.

"I really began to notice it a year ago when I'd go out for a meal with someone and it would be reported in the papers the next day, even though nothing had happened." Young girls started queuing for her autograph. "I don't know if it's a relief to know that there is work involved, hours of late-night fittings and rehearsals. The Japanese, Ms Campbell confides, are particularly draconian. Yesterday *Comme des Garçons* collected all the models from their hotels at 5.30am in time for two rehearsals before a 10 o'clock show. "They're very organised. They like to get it just right."

Then there are the endless lonely nights in hotels, with only other supermodels to talk to, away from her house in Streatham and apartment in New York. Fortunately for the poor little rich girl, she has company tonight. "Oscar!" she squeals running across the lobby. "Nannii!" says a man in his fifties in a good French checked jacket, kissing her.

"This is Oscar de la Renta," she says. "I'm dining his show." She tells Mr de la Renta about putting in a good word for overpriced models. "She's worth every penny," Mr de la Renta says, sliding an arm around her back.

Sexual harassment: who cares?

Laurie Taylor on why men of a certain age do

While the rest of the country was fiercely arguing the toss, my 18 and 19-year-old first year sociology students at York were finding it difficult to understand what mad it all so controversial.

For a start, it was quite obvious to most of them that Anita Hill was in the right. One or two agreed that it was just possible she had been lying or exaggerating but after all, they insisted, if you took into account the millions of women all over the world who were subject to sexual harassment then the likelihood that the ones who came forward to testify to its existence were telling the truth was pretty high. Professor Hill had statistical probability on her side.

They certainly did not agree with my gentle suggestion that bringing the law into this area might make us all so self-conscious that normal conversation between men and women would have to be temporarily suspended or reduced to formal banalities.

Why on earth was it difficult to avoid anything sexual in conversation? They could not imagine speaking to a woman in the way in which it was alleged Clarence Thomas had. Everyone avoided the one or two male students who behaved like that.

The more I went on about the danger of subjective judgements, the possibility that women who complained about sexual harassment were in danger of perpetrating the idea of themselves as victims — wasn't it better to learn how to fight back than to rush to law? — the more headshaking I felt. They began to look at me with a mixture of incomprehension and pity usually reserved for references to the historical importance of trade unions.

I doubt if it is easy for any man over about 30 to meet the straightforward gaze of those who are so genuinely and innocently appalled by any form of

sexual harassment. All through the week you could hear middle-aged men, who had found the spotlight turned on their everyday behaviour by the Senate hearing, busily covering their tracks, telling little self-serving anecdotes about the time — several years ago, of course — when they had just the once, you understand — discussed dirty films or their sexual fantasies to this or that woman in the office. And lo and behold it turned out she had not minded one bit.

But it is a mark of how closely we were attending that Senate debate that many men seem to have realized that from this week on such self-justifications are in danger of sounding hollow. Perhaps that is why so many decided that the only way off the hook was to declare that Professor Hill was a liar.

Perhaps what every man over 30 who has shifty through the week's proceedings now needs is a way of dealing with accumulated guilt. A sexual harassment amnesty. The equivalent of one of those police skips for illegally owned guns

where they could own up to the battery of double entendres, crude jokes, little touches, one-sided sexual conversations, and insinuations which they have laid on women over most of their working lives.

"I'll hardly dare to breathe in front of women after all this," said a colleague last week. Well, as I'm sure my students would insist, perhaps a little breathlessness is simply the present cost of those years of pretence and hypocrisy. And if the publicity from this case really has had such a pronounced effect it might even make it less necessary to introduce laws on sexual harassment or to invoke them regularly. How much better if our behaviour towards others in public places were regulated as it mostly is, not by laws, but by good manners.

Laurie Taylor

Libby Purves on why working women do not

There was a nice exchange in a London office this week, over the Clarence Thomas affair. A man, portentous and middle-aged, said earnestly to a female subordinate: "I take this sexual harassment issue very seriously indeed." Strangely annoyed, she replied: "Do you, George? Personally, I think it's hilarious." And removed herself rapidly, to get some actual work done.

Many working women are getting irritated by the whole subject. Both sexes have stared, mesmerised, at the emotional lynching in Washington, and the media have reacted by alternating harrowing case histories with articles by robust women urging their sisters to take the Miss Piggy line against sleazy colleagues and huff them (vertically, at least) in the eye. But older men seem unable to leave the subject, taking self-flagellating delight in discussing precisely what is sexual harassment. Is it complimentary? Door-opening? Calling grown women "girls"? Having settled the matter to their satisfaction, they announce that they "take it all very seriously", perhaps put a guideline or two and relax.

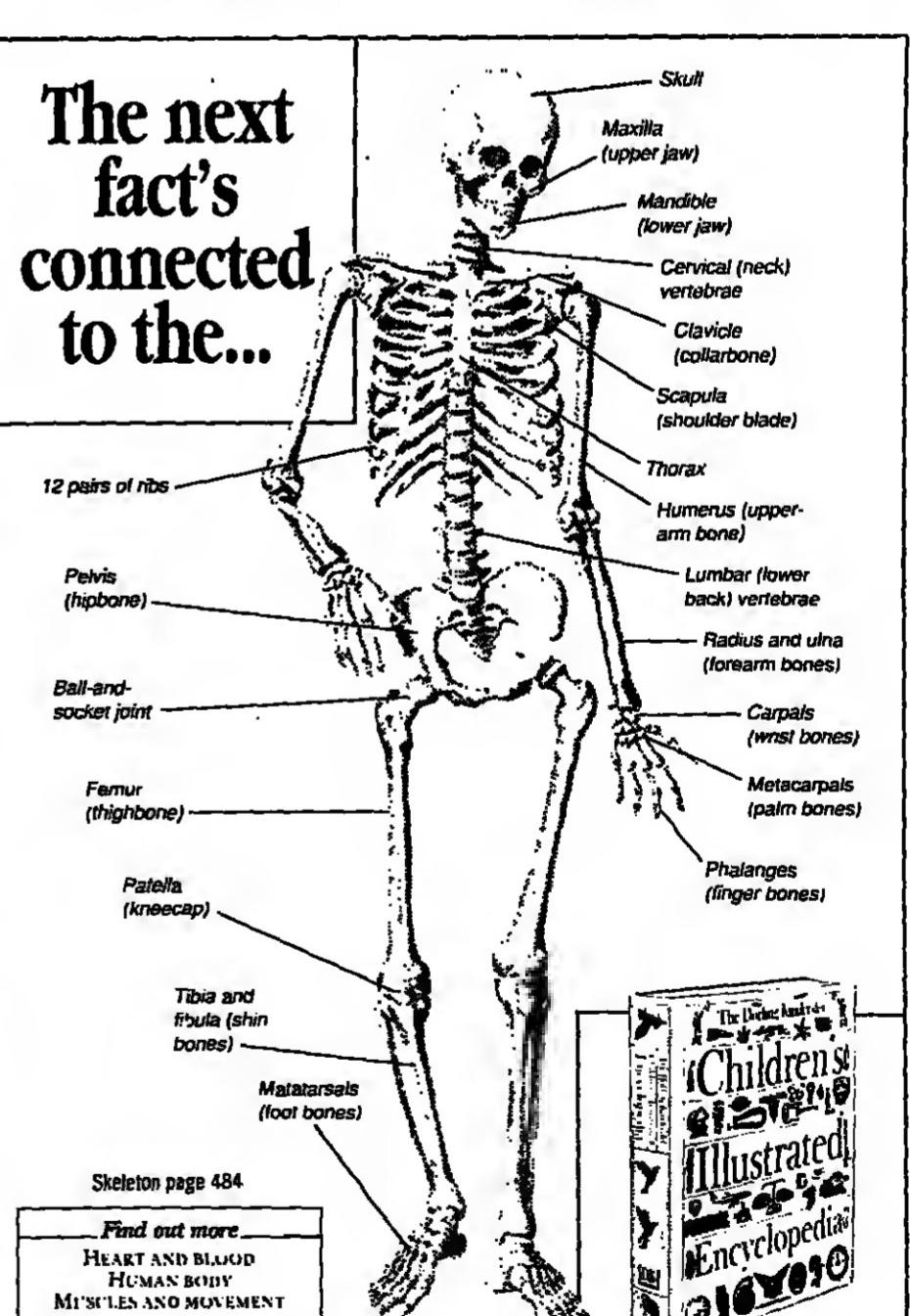
And they are missing the point. Real sexual bullying happens between superiors and subordinates: the superior being a man, the subordinate a woman: a typist, a junior, a cleaner. It is not the sexual advance which is offensive — outside the office, she could undoubtedly deal with it Miss Piggy fashion. What grates, and restrains, and causes tears of frustration is the exercise of power, the unspoken assurance in the minds of both parties that he will always be the boss and she the minion.

Women still have to be better, bolder, tougher than men in order to reach the same level. Even outside the years of family responsibilities, not by laws, but by good manners.



Libby Purves

The next fact's connected to the...



Skeleton page 484

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Hansard: the great unread

John Grigg urges MPs to examine their record

Politicians are always said to be mad about publicity, and so in some ways they obviously are. But in one respect, British politicians neglect publicity woefully. Despite the decline of parliamentary reporting in newspapers, they fail to make any serious effort to promote the recording of Parliament in print.

There was a time when Commons debates were reported at length in the broadsheets, but no longer. Nowadays there is space only for front-bench speeches and a few paragraphs from a few back-benchers. Most MPs are lucky if their words are adequately reported even in their constituents' local papers. In the national press they are given at most only a few lines.

This treatment does no justice to the quality of debate in the Commons, which is much higher than most people realise. Regrettable, too, is the similar neglect of proceedings in the Lords. Though debates there are, by and large, less lively than in the Commons, on certain issues the Lords' reservoir of expertise comes into its own.

Parliament is, of course, recorded verbatim in Hansard. But how many citizens of our parliamentary democracy read the Lords' and Commons' Hansards? The figures are pathetic and pitiful. Of the daily Commons' Hansard, on average about 4,000 copies are printed; of the daily Lords' Hansard, about 2,500.

The figures for the weekly editions of Hansard are even worse. The Commons' weekly prints 1,400; the Lords' 700. Since most of these copies, daily or weekly, go to politicians themselves, or to specialist institutions, the sale to the general public is infinitesimal.

On a few big occasions, the print run may be increased. The peak attained in recent times was for the day of Sir Geoffrey Howe's resignation speech in the Commons, when Hansard printed 4,800 copies. But this can hardly be regarded as mass circulation.

Price alone would be enough to account for Hansard's exiguous sale. The Commons' daily costs £6, its weekly £18; the Lord's daily costs £4, its weekly £8.50. These prices are guaranteed to kill the market. If parliament wants its proceedings to be widely read and studied, it must make the price of Hansard attractive.

Thought should also be given to improving the product, and then making sure that everybody knows about it. The weekly Hansards offer the best opportunity for development. Why should they not be combined in a single publication, including not only the record of Commons' and Lords' proceedings for the past week, but also coverage of the work of select committees, which is often fascinating as well as important? At present the work of select committees is recorded under three separate titles: the verbatim evidence for each sitting, the reports of each committee, and the minutes of proceedings (a purely formal document). Not surprisingly, the print for these records is, as a rule, numbered in hundreds.

Hansard is printed and published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, which is also, in practice, responsible for nearly all the distribution and sale. Though HMSO is free to deal with commercial outlets, such dealings will naturally remain minimal so long as Hansard is produced and priced as it is now.

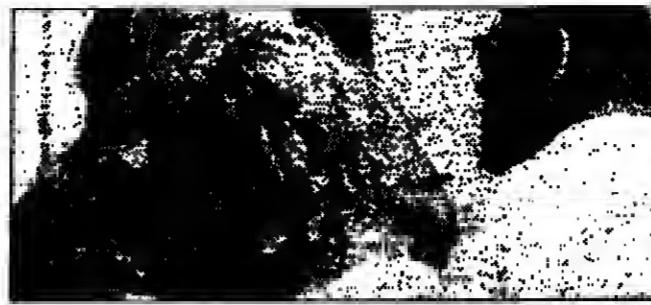
The need is for a professionally edited weekly Hansard, incorporating the weekly reports of both Houses and extracts from the work of select committees (evidence and reports). To these might be added a few articles and parliamentary profiles. The publication should be illustrated and have a bright cover.

Having evolved a product for which there could be genuine public demand, Parliament should ensure that it is offered at a price people might be willing to pay. A heavily subsidised weekly Hansard – and a subsidised daily too, for that matter – would be an excellent investment in democracy.

Parliament should also spend money on advertising the more accessible Hansards, particularly the new-look weekly. And HMSO should be encouraged to push the sale through every conceivable commercial outlet. Publicity should in any case be greatly assisted by the fact that Parliament is now televised (though as yet to a very limited degree). When a literary classic is dramatised for television, people rush in their thousands to buy the book. MPs should not be satisfied until people are often to be seen reading Hansard on buses and trains.

Charles Bremner, in New York, says Russia and the US are aping the worst of each other's societies

America's bloody example



Grief: a Texan woman is comforted after the shooting

New Yorker was wounded in a shoot-out in a crowded restaurant on Sunday. That news might seem unexceptional in a week that saw 22 people murdered in a Texas cafeteria, but the restaurant is in Moscow. The American was caught in the crossfire of a gun and grenade fight that ended with the death of another man. Five other people were shot dead that night in the Russian capital. Such violence is one aspect of a striking symmetry between America and the former Soviet Union.

As it rushes towards capitalism and democracy, Russia is adopting American habits, both good and bad. That might be expected, but oddly, America is reciprocating, unconsciously taking on some old Soviet ways.

Rampages by crazed lone gunmen, an all-too-familiar horror of modern American life, still lie outside the Russian experience. But the ingredients of lawlessness and alienation that breed them are starting to be felt in the chaos now afflicting the Eurasian former superpower.

The statistics have yet to reach American proportions, but the crime-wave now surging from St Petersburg to Vladivostok calls for comparisons with the Wild West, gangland Chicago or the modern drug-

wars of New York and Los Angeles. Firearms, of which there are said to be millions in private possession, are being wielded with an American-style abandon, often to settle squabbles or simply to express frustration.

In the sudden free-for-all brought on by the collapse of communism, Moscow has turned into a sea of racketeering, drug-dealing, gambling, prostitution and money-laundering, dominated by some 10 "Mafia" gangs, as they are always called. Al Capone had only one shortage to exploit – alcohol – but the Moscow gangs are extorting millions from the scarcity of nearly every commodity, from sugar to cars. Many gangs, it is said, operate through joint ventures with foreign concerns.

After decades of treating all profit-making as crime, the police are ill-equipped to distinguish between felony and the new business spirit. Arkady Murashev, the young democratic politician just appointed as Moscow's chief of police, sees prostitution and drug-taking as acceptable facets of the free market. Such thinking prevails

throughout the new entrepreneurial class, which cannot get enough of everything American, from "business school" to personal bodyguards, as it scrambles to catch up on 74 years of lost initiative. Pioneers from 19th-century America would recognise the frenetic mercantile spirit that has established some 300 rudimentary "stock exchanges" across the country.

Try explaining to a dinner-table of Moscow intellectuals that the free market is not the cure for everything and you will be shouted down. Talk about the cruelties of naked capitalism

and you will be greeted with the scorn that neo-conservatives of the early Reagan years would have shown.

Yet while young Russians are embracing the American virtues of individual liberty and personal responsibility, Americans are moving away from them, preferring to shirk the burden through litigation and the rationale of victimhood.

Lulled by prosperity, Americans are coming to regard elections as meaningless. Most do not bother to vote. Many even tell pollsters that in an age of sound-bites and video-flashes

civil television explained that judge's ordeal as the equivalent of a "party" personnel tribunal from the bad old days.

In popular culture too, there are increasing echoes of the old Soviet style. While the Russians have abandoned socialist realism, Hollywood and television are turning out ever more escapist fantasies that always end with the worker-wins-all happy endings once demanded by Stalin. If you want gritty realism or social satire, you have to go to a Russian film like *Little Vera* or *Taxi Blues*.

It may be frivolous to take these comparisons too far – America has immense strengths that justify envy and emulation – but perhaps some morals can be drawn. Americans should wake up to the need to defend the freedoms they take for granted. On the other side, it would help if the Russian enthusiasm for America were tempered with understanding of the social breakdown that sends thousands of teenage gunmen onto the city streets, and prompts middle-class suburbanites to vent their frustrations in mass murder. This was, after all, the only side of America the Russians were ever shown when the Kremlin ran the media. Now the difficulty is making anyone believe it.

The myth of Fortress Europe

Peter Riddell explores the dilemma posed by a new influx of immigrants

Kenneth Baker believes large scale movement of people around the world will become one of the major political issues of the 1990s. It is already an urgent question in much of Europe, though it has hardly surfaced yet in British politics. Ministers worry in private about the implications – immigration control is the fastest growing part of government – and hope that tighter controls will prevent a political backlash. But restrictions are unlikely to prove a lasting solution.

A wave of migrants seeking asylum from the Third World and, most recently, from Eastern Europe, has produced political tensions in Germany and France, and contributed to a series of violent attacks on foreigners. Trying to restrict the flow is rather like curbing drug abuse by attempting to prevent imports of heroin and cocaine.

A few highly publicised seizures make little difference to the level of drug use. Similarly, tougher immigration procedures are unlikely to deter hungry and unemployed migrants from Africa or the former Soviet Union.

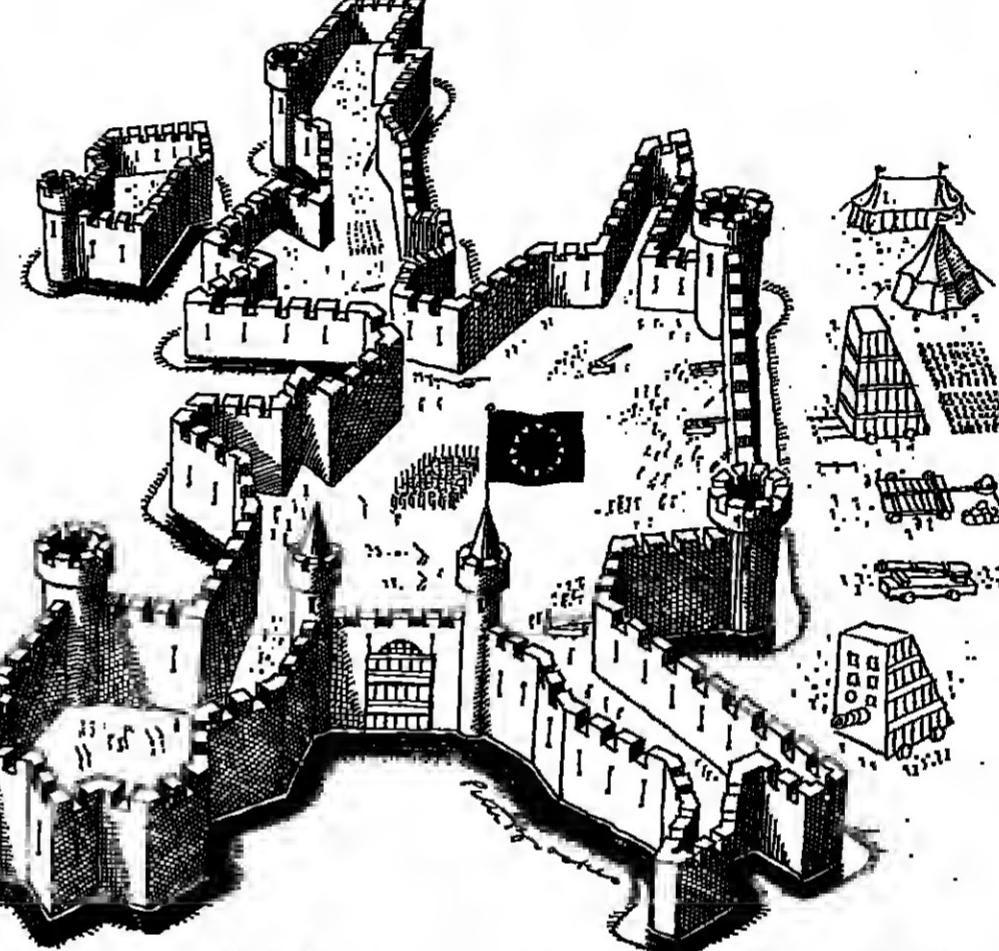
Unless their conditions at home improve, such people will continue to come to Western Europe. References back to the 1951 United Nations convention on refugees are increasingly irrelevant in a world where, as Douglas Hurd dismissively remarked last week, the great majority of asylum seekers are "looking for a more comfortable life, not fleeing persecution".

It is a matter of market forces, assisted by mass air travel. Both Western Europe and America are magnets to the impoverished and persecuted around the world. Immigration into Amer-

ica is now at its highest level since the mass influx around the turn of the century. In a current lottery, more than 15 million people are chasing 40,000 visas for permanent residence. America, however, has a tradition of welcoming migrants (despite a long period of restriction from the 1920s until the late 1960s).

By contrast, Europe has long been more exclusive and more inward-looking. While the numbers trying to enter Europe from outside rose during the 1980s, the Iron Curtain was an effective barrier across the continent. The Berlin Wall was put up in 1961 primarily as a means of stopping mass emigration from East Germany.

The dismantling of barriers within Europe has released a powerful tide. The number of requests for asylum within the European Community has more than doubled in the past two years, to around half a million per annum. New figures are likely to show a big exodus from Yugoslavia, which the Austrian army is vainly trying to stem. Germany is facing the most serious difficulties, absorbing former East Germans and ethnic Germans from Poland and elsewhere, as well as asylum seekers. Widespread incidents of violence have made immigration a dominant issue in German politics. Chancellor Kohl's ability to respond has been circumscribed by the refusal of other parties to back constitutional amendments to



tighten the country's liberal regime. In France, former President Giscard d'E斯塔ing has talked of an "invasion" of immigrants...

The British position is less serious, at present. Primary immigration has been halted, and there are now only around 50,000 legal entrants each year. Continuing difficulties concern enforcement and processing, not numbers. But after the experience of the 1960s, politicians remain sensitive about numbers. The spectre of Enoch Powell is never far away. Hence the government's alarm at the tenfold rise since 1988 in asylum applications. These have now reached 50,000 a year, still

mainly from outside Europe. John Major has taken a firm line: "We must not be wide open to all comers simply because Paris, Rome or London seem more attractive than Bombay or Algiers." The government still bases its policy on the 1951 distinction between economic migrants and political refugees with a well-founded fear of persecution. Legislation this winter will propose speeding up the system for processing applications for refugee status. That earned some favourable headlines in the tabloids.

Away from conference rhetoric, the gap between the main parties is much smaller. Labour agrees that there should be no primary immigration and that only legitimate political refugees should be admitted. There are

differences over procedures for assessing applications. Alistair Darling, Labour's spokesman, is concerned that the tighter controls and limits on appeals will be unfair – for instance, by denying legal aid – and he has urged a new, quick tribunal.

Ministers are sceptical about the feasibility of an external barrier round the community. In practice, the boundaries of Germany, Greece, Italy and Spain are porous. Consequently, the Tories want to retain our frontier controls. Labour is supportive, because it opposes the alternative of identity cards.

These proposals are nowhere near a solution. Mr Baker is this weekend visiting the American/Mexican border where he will see how difficult it is to control flows of migrants. But the real lesson from Mexico comes from the negotiations for a free-trade treaty with Washington. President Carlos Salinas argues that America must accept either more Mexican goods or more Mexican people.

Exactly the same applies in Europe. Instead of concentrating on tightening controls, the EC should open its markets to goods from the East. We are certain to have more Polish and Romanian workers in the West; we will have fewer if we admit more Polish and Romanian goods and assist the development of their economies. A second lesson is that new immigrants must be treated equally if we are to avoid creating an immigrant underclass like those in some American and French cities.

British ministers, like their opposite numbers in Bonn and Paris, are responding to negatively to the prospect of mass movement of people in the 1990s. Building dams against outsiders may impress the voters at home in the short-term, but it will not be enough to stop the flood.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

You know how eyes are, as they ungum for morning. "In Colour", trumpeted the first front page they fell on. "The Waleses by Snowdon". Who would not turn immediately to page 9? Poland's first family lying in the old wizard's chiaroscuro, moustaches purply reflected in a vat of borisch, a burlap headscarf mottled by two beyond the window, a big Slav goosehound scratching in the grate.

No such luck, of course. The eye did not find it. As they cleared, page 9 offered them only the Waleses by Snowdon, yet again. A curious portrait: this time, mind, fraught with impenetrability; beneath a fat old English oak, the king-in-waiting stands, incongruously lounge-suited, one hand on the shoulder of his jodhpured consort, the other on the shoulder of his younger son, who, in his turn, clutches the bridle of a tiny horse. The next King William sits at his mother's feet, nudged by her knee, and balanced, on her further flank, by an open hamper stocked with grapes and oranges and pears. Nine eyes gaze out at us, eight smiling, but the ninth is louché. Is the pony making some kind of point?

We cannot decode this last any more than we can decode all the rest. We know our future queen to be no hippohippo, so why the riding boots? Are they a sly indicator of wifely compliance, designed to frustrate rumour? A

bid to restore Northampton to its feet, or rather ours, since what the Princess whole world buys tomorrow? And all that fruit, not merely lurking in the wickerbox, but filling a big tin table, too, and also spilling from Prince William's plate – a vegan health-hint from Daddy, perhaps, but if so, why has none of it been touched? There are no cores, no pits, no stalks; could carnivorous tantrums have been thrown, why can't we have pork pies like other people, why can't we have Spam sandwiches? And what of the two large hip-flasks?

Can it conceivably be that when the weight of duty grows too great, they all run into the nearest field and quietly get hloho?

Little deserves a loyal subject's sympathy more than the royal obligation to pose for formal maps. I imagine they are compelled to submit to them off the extempore damage done by cheeky paparazzi, a skirt caught by a capricious gust, a highlight winking off a bald patch, a telephoned sunbathe, a tumble from a horse, an incautious al fresco widdle, but I fear it does them less good than their PR department believes. There may be no art to find the mind's construction in the face, but that won't stop 50 million people trying: it is glum, is she lonely, are the kids smart, do they all love one another, would they like to chuck everything up and move to Morecambe, what does

the borse know that we don't? I abhor formal photographs; and the more professional the person behind the lens, the ghastlier it is for the person in front. It is like having an interior decorator rearrange your psyche. Try the chin in the hand, they say, pull the hat down, raise one eyebrow, make the smile just a teensy bit more quizzical. Look warm, look heroic, look wry.

You can tell the way I feel by making no more effort than running your eye a couple of inches up this page, though it will not tell you the way I am. You appear, do you not, to be looking through the hatch of a cell-door at a singularly unsavoury inmate. You would not have a loved one to accept a boiled sweet from him.

It took a highly professional photographer several rolls of film to secure that little winner. He was supposed to sum me up. What do you want me to do? I asked him. Look like a humourist, he said.

I cannot begin to tell you how much that photograph depresses me. Not only, as I write on beneath it of this and that, will readers envisage this horrible head engaged upon the various expeditions undertaken on their behalf, it will continually distract them with speculation as to how it got that way. Life, they will murmur, has not done right by this poor sod. I wonder what it was, exactly?

Pity he hasn't got a horse with him. It might give us a clue.

Mandela switches sides

Heads of state at the Commonwealth summit have been surprised by Nelson Mandela's enthusiasm for the return of South Africa to international test cricket. In fact, says Sunil Gavaskar, the former Indian test captain, Mandela has been waiting for more than 40 years for an opportunity to support his own nation on the cricket field, after years of backing the opposition on principle.

Mandela told Gavaskar that he first became booked on cricket in 1950 when he watched the teenage prodigy Neil Harvey score a century for Australia against South Africa in Durban.

Gavaskar, the world's leading test run scorer, who was in South Africa with Sir Gary Sobers to support the Springboks' return, visited Mandela at his home with Ali Bacher, the last South African test captain. Gavaskar says he was astonished to learn that Mandela was a cricket fan. "In spite of being in prison for all those years, he managed to keep up with what was going on in sport. That test match all those years ago left a very lasting impression on him. He had to watch it in a separate stand for blacks, and he never forgot it as either a sporting or a political experience."

Gavaskar explains: "South Africa were winning until Neil Harvey came in and turned the match.

Peter Jay, TV-am's founding father, says: "I am emotionally attached to the building as it has great nostalgic value for me. It's a conversion of the Henly's Garage where I bought my first car in 1961 and where my father bought his 30 years earlier."

Jay says he was "never enthusiastic" about the eggcup, but felt it was important to give the architect, Terry Farrell, total artistic

freedom. "I wanted a coherent design and not a committee's dog's breakfast."

The architect himself says: "I would hate the building to vanish or for half of it to be taken down. But architecture is quite capable of evolving and the building could lend itself to other uses. If the Milk Marketing Board were to take it over, colourful milk-bottles could happily replace the eggcups."

DIARY



Has anyone actually seen the poster campaign launched by Labour this week attacking the government's record on the health service? Newspaper and television cameras were invited to a prominent site on the south side of London's Vauxhall Bridge on Monday, where Labour launched a poster which it declared was part of "a major new assault". Yet by Thursday, the poster had failed to materialise anywhere else around the country, and the much-photographed example at Vauxhall had also disappeared, to be replaced by a Marlboro country ad. Labour insists it will be putting up more – soon.

Cracking up

THE fate of Britain's most famous eggcup was exercised architectural buffs yesterday, following TV-am's loss of its franchise. The brightly coloured features adorn the station's Camden building, which faces an uncertain future.

Peter Jay, TV-am's founding father, says: "I am emotionally attached to the building as it has great nostalgic value for me. It's a conversion of the Henly's Garage where I bought my first car in 1961 and where my father bought his 30 years earlier."

Jay says he was "never enthusiastic" about the eggcup, but felt it was important to give the architect, Terry Farrell, total artistic

inappropriate," says the company's Belgrade vice-president, Ivan Stankovich, with understatement not characteristic of the industry.

Stankovich's declined. "We decided the global circumstances made it inappropriate," says the company's Belgrade vice-president, Ivan Stankovich, with understatement not characteristic of the industry.

Instead, Saatchi's decided a campaign to promote business opportunities for foreign investors

headquarters.

RONALD REAGAN breezed into town yesterday preaching the virtues of Reaganomics as a cure for the ills of the former "evil empire". The message was delivered amid the splendour of the



SOUTH-EAST SHAKE-OUT

Half the September increase in reported unemployment for the whole United Kingdom, 35,700, was contributed by one region, the South-East of England. Last month brought unemployment there to an additional 17,800 people. With 7.6 per cent of its total workforce unemployed, the South-East is still suffering less in absolute terms than any region except East Anglia (with 6.3 per cent). But it is the rate of growth of unemployment, not the absolute figure, which is the measure of the degree of pain. In contrast, unemployment actually fell by 1,500 in Scotland in September.

The continuing deterioration in the South-East, faster than elsewhere in Britain, is bound to make the government nervous. In 1987 the Tories won 107 of the 108 seats in the South-East outside London and 57 of the 84 seats within it. Many are vulnerable to Labour or to a Liberal Democrat revival. High unemployment accompanied by the middle-class fallout of bankrupt businesses, home repossessions, soaring debt, children removed from fee-paying schools and the rest, could fuel just such a revival.

Nervous ministers may be, but powerless too. Having cut the prime lending rate by 4 per cent in the last year to 11.5 per cent, the same level as in Germany, the government has little leeway for more of the same. But if the economic sun is not going to rise over the South-East until well into next year, then self-help is the best hope of the region's middle classes. Their relief lies not at a macro-economic level, but at the level of the firm and the individual. The South-East is the most service-oriented and therefore the least unionised and least industrial of regional economies. Its residents have often delighted to lecture workers in other regions, particularly in manufacturing industry, "not to price themselves out of a job."

The South-East must learn to practice what it has always preached. Those in the consultancy professions — the law, financial services, property — can easily continue to charge more than the market will bear without realising it. Fees, theoretically negotiable, are in practice presented to

customers as a *sacré accompli*. Bills are issued unsummoned; challenging them is embarrassing; price competition between neighbouring firms is regarded as unfriendly.

These are restrictive trade practices made by social pressure to feel acceptable, even invisible. Those levying excess charges may not realise the danger until too late. Sometimes they blithely raise prices in line with or above inflation, on the grounds that continuing customers must compensate them for the business that has been lost from those who can no longer afford their services. But the one virtue of recession is that it makes efficiency, flexibility and value for money essential to job survival rather than merely desirable for job satisfaction.

The legal profession, with a total annual turnover of £3 billion and a considerable and typical employer in the South-East, is a case in point. Yesterday, the president of the Law Society, Philip Ely, was predicting further job losses among solicitors and their professional acolytes. Meanwhile the Law Society itself is laying off many staff at its London headquarters. The society's secretary general, John Hayes, said there are hundreds of solicitors round the country who are unable to find jobs.

The day before, however, the society was congratulating itself on a 16 per cent rise in total income from fees in the financial year 1990-1. In the London area, the increase was a staggering 22 per cent. Solicitors in effect awarded themselves a pay rise of 13 per cent last year and 14 per cent this. Businesses staving off bankruptcy are shocked to find themselves charged up to £300 an hour for legal advice by commercial lawyers.

If such short-term self-interest in the legal profession is at all representative of the way the rest of the middle classes in the South-East are facing the recession, then it is no wonder unemployment in the region is rising faster than elsewhere. The 1980-1 recession caused a great shake-out of inefficiency and overmanning in industry. The 1990-1 recession should be allowed to do the same for services.

SANCTIONS DESANCTIFIED

Nelson Mandela is officially just an observer at the Commonwealth summit in Harare. But as a possible future president of South Africa he has been courted by every head of government. Yesterday Mr Mandela invited the Australian prime minister, Bob Hawke, to visit South Africa — it seems, with President F. W. de Klerk's blessing.

The leader of the African National Congress has made a rapid transition from incarcerated hero to quasi-ambassador. This admirably suits Pretoria, the indirect beneficiary of the country's new respectability. But where does that leave the ANC's view on sanctions, and its virtual veto over their lifting by many Commonwealth states? At Harare Mr Mandela will have been aware that support for sanctions even among black African states is dwindling fast. In recent weeks Kenya has dropped its pretence of trade sanctions to the point at which the state airline now flies businessmen to South Africa. South African goods, often disguised by fake labels, are sold all over black Africa. The "front-line states" have long acted as secret conduits for South African trade. The lifting of most European and American sanctions rendered nugatory those still operated by some Commonwealth states. John Major, who wants to end sanctions, is knocking at an open door.

Mr Mandela has none the less ostensibly tried to persuade the conference that economic sanctions should remain in place at least until an interim multi-racial government is actually in office in Pretoria. He concedes that sanctions now have a limited shelf-life, but argues that Mr de Klerk still needs the carrot of a gradually phased lifting of sanctions tied to white concessions during the round-table talks on the new constitution. This was the position agreed by a number of Commonwealth leaders at Delhi earlier this year.

RENEWABLE ELEPHANTS

Six African governments have appealed for the controlled resumption of the ivory trade when a ban agreed in 1989 comes up for review next year. They argue that their peasants need economic incentives to treat elephants as a renewable resource rather than as a pest to be eliminated, and that governments need the revenue to police against poachers. Britain and others want to maintain the ban until it is certain that the species could survive the resumed trade.

Only two questions were asked in 1989: could a ban be made to work and, if so, would it save the African elephant from extinction? The ban has been in effect for only 22 months, but already the answer to the first question is yes. Those who claimed that a ban would be unpoliceable and would simply drive up black market prices, increasing incentives for poachers, have been proved wrong. In China, Hong Kong and Japan, sales and prices have plummeted. In Africa, poaching has declined dramatically. The ban has closed the loopholes in the "legal" trade. Black market prices in Africa have slumped for lack of buyers — in Zaire, for instance, from \$95 to \$10 per kilogram.

The answer to the second question is more complex. In the countries where game management is weak, herds had been so depleted that recovery will take many more years. In South Africa and Zimbabwe (although not in some other countries which are appealing for a lifting of the ban), game management is serious business. One result is over-population: robust herds are having to be culled to prevent damage to their

habitats. Both countries want to sell the ivory "by-product" of these bulls, saying that they see no reason to be penalised for lawlessness in other countries. They also say that they can keep the trade legal.

The evidence so far is against them. Between 1973 and 1990, when the trade was supposed to be subject to stringent international controls, ivory poaching and smuggling flourished. Africa's elephant population fell from around two million to 600,000. Certificates of origin meant little. Between 1986 and 1988 South Africa filed export quotas for more than 34,000 tusks, a figure far beyond its total elephant population.

Elephant-lovers must, however, set reason. Africa is no longer a true wilderness. To survive, elephants must cohabit with humans under the latter's protection. There is a conservationist case for culling. Responsible governments which have made a successful tourist industry out of live elephants should be able to add revenue from culling and from big game shooting of old bulls without bringing down the wrath of the wildlife lobby. There may even be a case for relaxing the UN convention to allow controlled trade in the skins of culled elephants. These take too long to remove to be of interest to poachers. But only the skins of elephants that are easily smuggled ivory is what makes elephants vulnerable to poaching. So long as there was a legal market, illegal ivory made its way into it. There is no reason yet to believe that this would not happen again. The ban should stay for the time being.

British Airways' choice of engine

From the Chairman of British Airways

they were designed to do (report, August 22).

Our commercial judgment was based upon the initial price to the airline and our assessment of the ongoing operating costs of the engine/aircraft combination. Our selection was based on the winner by a clear margin of this competition.

We have the greatest admiration for the quality of Rolls-Royce's products and remain their best customer. We have been the launch customer for Rolls-Royce-powered Boeing 747, 757 and 767 aircraft.

When BOAC decided to buy Boeing 707 aircraft instead of VC10 and Super VC10 aircraft they did so because they judged the latter to be uncompetitive with the fleet at that time operated across the Atlantic by Pan Am. Lord Caldecote does not mention that the first Boeing 707s selected by BOAC were powered by Rolls-Royce/Coway engines. Later deliveries were powered by the more fuel-efficient Pratt and Whitney JT3 engines. The VC10 and the Trident are both examples of high-quality British engineering products which were commercially uncompetitive in world markets.

Yours sincerely,

KING, Chairman,
British Airways,
Easter House,
8 St James's Square, SW1.
October 17.

The NHS: profit and the public purse

From Dr M. S. T. A. Lawrence

Sir, Why all this argument about whether the National Health Service will be privatised? It has been privatised already. The government argues that health care will always be free, but that is a purchased criterion, and privatisation relates to providers not purchasers.

Dustbin collection is free, but many of the contracts are now operated privately. Were the purchaser side of the NHS to be privatised, say by compulsory insurance, that would be privatisation far beyond any precedent.

The NHS has, by the government's reforms, been divided clearly into purchasers and providers. The purchasers, increasingly holding-down general practices, are given NHS money to buy services for their patients. They can spend that money with any provider, private or NHS.

They are buying private hospital care, and even services such as physiotherapy, from profit-making companies which they themselves have set up. Naturally the straightforward items for uncomplicated patients will be bought in the private sector, leaving complicated matters to the public sector, where unit costs will steadily rise. We have seen it happen with the charity hospitals in the USA.

Hospital trusts are a halfway house. Technically NHS, they operate in a market place, no longer obtaining their money by direct funding but by achieving contracts with purchasers. They are liable to go bankrupt if they fail to earn enough. They are private in all but ownership, and could be sold off at any time with minimal change in management.

The question to be asked is not whether privatisation will happen, but whether it is a good thing. It may well be the fastest way to achieve quality, efficiency and rationalisation of services. In London it has demonstrated the over-provision of services so fast that the government has had to stop its own policies and order an enquiry.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN LAWRENCE,
West Street Surgery,
12 West Street,
Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.
October 14.

From Dr John Fry

Sir, The frenetic politicking over the "privatisation" of the National Health Service lacks common sense.

The per capita annual cost of the NHS this year will be over £500. It matters little whether the cost of our health care comes out of direct general taxation, as of bow, or out of indirect "privatised" taxation such

National anthem

From Mr Colin Kitching

Sir, Usually I hear the national anthem sung properly a mere four times a year — in our parish church or Remembrance Sunday, in the Albert Hall on the last night of the Proms and twice at Twickenham, before England's home rugby internationals.

This year, however, I have heard the anthem on three extra occasions, thanks to the rugby World Cup. Without being too sanguine I hope it will ring out again at Twickenham in November.

But why is God Save the Queen so rarely sung now? Is it self-consciousness, or general yobbliness, or what? And is the national anthem ever sung in Scotland or Wales these days?

Yours faithfully,
COLIN KITCHING,
24 Chestnut Way, Repton, Derby.

Land of the living

From Mr A. H. P. Humphrey

Sir, Mr Stamp (October 13) must surely tell Commercial Union on how many days he has felt more dead than alive. The company can then reduce his annuity pro rata.

Yours faithfully,
A. H. P. HUMPHREY,
14 Ambrose Place,
Worthing, West Sussex.

Business letters, page 28

No place like it?

From Mrs D. M. Greenhalgh

Sir, The stately homes of England, How beautiful they stand! Amidst their tall ancestral trees.

Many pre-1914 school anthologies included this poem from *The Homes of England*. It was learnt by heart by generations of children: Was Noel Coward (b.1899) one of them (letter, October 10)?

Yours faithfully,
ROSA GREENHALGH,
3 Cricket Lawns, OAKHAM,
Rutland, Leicestershire.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

17

Honouring wartime special forces

From the Deputy Director General of the Imperial War Museum

Sir, Mr Siddell (letter, October 8) and Nigel West (article, October 12) are right to suggest a museum dealing with intelligence and special operations and I can confirm Mr West's report that the Imperial War Museum and the Special Forces Club have been working together for several years to accumulate suitable display material with this end in view.

The aim is, indeed, to establish a permanent special forces exhibition in the museum's main building as soon as the funds for completing its refurbishment are available. This display will serve both as a record of special operations and as a memorial to the bravery of those who took part in them.

We will also have the important advantages first, of enabling our visitors to study these events against the wider background of the story of the international conflicts to which they relate and secondly, of displaying fully the curatorial and other resources of the appropriate existing national institution which already has significant collections in this field.

Finally, Mr West will be reassured to know that our Enigma German code machine (bought, incidentally, in the open market from a dealer) is displayed, in a prominent position, with its lid open, and an explanation of how it was used and why it was so important.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT CRAWFORD,
Deputy Director General,
Imperial War Museum,
Lambeth Road, SE1.
October 15.

From Brigadier R. L. Stonham (retired)

Sir, Readers of Nigel West's fascinating article may like to know that the Royal Signals Museum at Blandford (not Trowbridge) plans to build a new, larger museum of army communications, just outside the boundary of the military camp. This will give unrestricted access to the public and enable us to display our full range of artefacts, using audio-visual effects, dioramas, tableaux and voice commentaries.

We already have an Enigma machine on display and propose to make this the centrepiece of one of the tableaux; another will feature the several suitcase wireless transmitters in our collection.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD STONHAM
(Project Manager, Museum of Army Communications).
Royal Signals Museum,
Blandford Camp,
Blandford, Dorset.
October 15.

From Sir John Barran

Sir, Congratulations on the excellent article on "Britain's secret history". There is no doubt that without our expertise in intelligence, deception and code-breaking we would not have won the war. The flood of books which have appeared since the 30-year rule was passed has enabled us to get some inkling of our amazing achievements in these fields; but now that the external threat from communism has really died down, we can at last enter areas which (for sound security reasons) have been out of bounds for so long.

The younger generation has little detailed knowledge of what went on and (with the exception of the underground war rooms in Whitehall) there is virtually nothing to see.

As part of the "peace dividend" could not some of the money currently spent on equipping the services (the price of a Tornado perhaps) be used to open up and maintain these secret places — and their study be incorporated in the school syllabus for the history of the 20th century?

I hope that Nigel West will be stimulated to follow up his fascinating and thought-provoking article.

Yours sincerely,
J. BARRAN,
17 St Leonard's Terrace, SW3.
October 12.

From Brigadier R. L. Stonham

regiments/battalions around the world and Northern Ireland every six months, of giving an interval between these tours of 24 months and, at the same time, maintaining primary defence tasks at full strength, bringing all units back to so establishment whereby they can man all their equipments in peace-time. All need reinforcement from other units before going on operational tasks, even in Northern Ireland.

The army today already suffers from acute overstretch. So far no commitments have been eliminated; that is to Central Region has altered; we are told, to enable the withdrawal and disbandment of some 22 units (ten infantry, seven armoured and five artillery).

But the "Options" plan proposes to cut 27 units from the Central Region (13 infantry, eight armoured and six artillery) and a further four will go in 1997 when we leave Hong Kong. The army is thus bound to become more overstretched unless commitments are drastically reduced further or the number of units and their establishments increased.

The problem that will not go away is that of providing a relief for those

Immigration policy

From the Minister for Immigration

Sir, Your editorial on defence (October 14) omits several key issues. To judge the correctness or otherwise of the Options for Change plan it is important to know that the army has already been cut back over the years, mainly by reducing establishments, so that now we units can man all their equipments in peace-time. All need reinforcement from other units before going on operational tasks, even in Northern Ireland.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN FARNDALE
(Commander-in-Chief,
BAOR, 1985-7),
16 St James's Square, SW1.
October 15.

From Lady Macmillan

Sir, Our prime minister said of his job: "I've got it, I like it, I intend to keep it." Scotland has them, Scotland likes them, Scotland wants to keep them. Could Mr Major sod Scottish voters help each other?

Yours sincerely,
BELINDA MACMILLAN
(Keep Our Scottish Battalions
Campaign),
Boghall Farm, Thornhill, Stirling.

Peace and defence

From Mr A. J. Augarde

Sir, It is ironic that letters complaining at the proposed defence cuts (October 15) are printed alongside the editorial in which you rightly praise Aung San Suu Kyi, the winner of the Nobel peace prize, for her "resolutely non-violent message". Who, I wonder, has the greater moral courage: those who plead for Britain to keep its unnecessarily large armed forces, or this Burmese woman who has adhered to non-violence even against a brutal military dictatorship?

brace the arms that are limp,
the hands that have given
way, say to the ones that are
strong, fear not!
Isaiah 36 : 34

BIRTHS

BARAKAT - On October 1st, at the Huthmas Hospital, to Myrna and Farid, a son, William.

CLAYTON-HATFIELD - Son, Hamish.

CHEW-HWAITE - On October 12th, to Nicola and Richard, a son, Jordan.

CURRAN - On October 13th, to Anne and Patrick, a daughter, Katie Isabel. Deo Gratias.

DYHAM - On October 1st, to Wendy (née Johnson) and John, a son, Joachim. Deo Gratias.

DOWSON - On October 11th, to KERRY and Charles, a daughter, Celia Susannah.

EATON - On October 9th, to Catherine (née Hunt) and Geoffrey, a son, Patrick Hamilton.

GODHAM-WILSTON - On October 13th, to Bridget (née London) and Andrew, a son, Michael. Deo Gratias.

HARRISON - On October 1st, to Kenneth S. Macdonald, of Mauritius F.D., 31 Devonside Road, Beckhill-on-Sea.

MIDDLETON-GUTHRIE - On October 18th, 1941, at Congregational church, Mill Hill, Middlesex, Leslie to Betty, now residing in Bournemouth.

PUGNELLIS-STANLEY - On October 18th 1941 at Overstrand, Norfolk, Nigel to Joan.

TIBBLE-HOULDRIDGE - On October 19th, 1941, Bernard to Dorothy, a son, Michael, living in Giffham, Dorset.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

GULLIVER-GREENER - On October 1st 1941 at St Peter's Church, Hunsing, Peter to June. Present Address: St Luke's Church, Newland, 12a now October 24th, 2000. Serial following request St Peter's Church, Lancing. Family only. No flowers. Donations, if wished, to Diocese of Chichester, 22 Lower Mountbatten Rd, 31 Devonside Road, Beckhill-on-Sea.

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DEATHS

JAMES - On October 17th, at Mavern, Maurice, aged 81, of Peter's Church, Hunsing, Peter to June. Present Address: St Luke's Church, Newland, 12a now October 24th, 2000. Serial following request St Peter's Church, Lancing. Family only. No flowers. Donations, if wished, to Diocese of Chichester, 22 Lower Mountbatten Rd, 31 Devonside Road, Beckhill-on-Sea.

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NEW RELEASES

CHATTahoochee (15): Gary Oldman in a Platonic penal hell-hole. Groomy drama that suffered post-production cuts. With Dennis Hopper; director, Mick Jackson. Odolen Mezzacane 0439 615933.

CITY SLICKERS (12): Over-stretched sentimental comedy, with Billy Crystal and chums solving mid-life crises during a cattle drive. Starring Dennis Hopper, Bruno Kirby, Holly Hunter; Director, Ron Underwood. Odolen Leicester Square (0171-915933).

DEKALOG PARTS 5 AND 6 (18): A devastating analysis of a senseless murder, plus a voice-over's last tale — two of the best from Krzysztof Kieslowski's Ten Commandments cycle. Rating: (071-857 6402).

DOC HOWARD (12): L.A. bound doctor (John Goodman) finds himself waylaid in the sticks. Silly comedy whose punchlines quickly fester; a Hollywood debut for British director Michael Caton-Jones. Cannons Baker Street (0171-635 5772). Fulten Royal (0171-870 2288); Haymarket (0171-803 1527); Oxford Street (0171-330 0310).

EDWARD II (15): Soothie reworking of Marlowe's play by Derek Jarman, who dances and laughs like an audience. Steven Whittington and Andrew Tiernan as star-crossed royal lovers; Tilda Swinton as the exasperated Queen. Cannons Baker Street (0171-635 4005); Gates (0171-722 4043).

F MANHOLE ON THE MOVE (PG-13): Utterly sequel to a dire 1987 comedy, though William Regal shows the mettle as the hero who tells for a living (as Kinky Swanman). Stewart Rattray. Cannon (0171-390 0631); Odolen Kennington (0429 514965); Mezzacane (0439 615933).

THE RESCUERS DOWN UNDER (U): The star mice from Disney's 1977 cartoon now have a real life. Kidnapped boy, unbroken cartoon feature for the easily pleased. Henson, Butch, Miles Gabriel. Cannon (0171-382 8089); Oxford Street (0171-635 5772); Carlton (0171-630 0310); Odolen Kennington (0429 514965); Mezzacane (0439 615933).

THE SWEEPS (12): Another cartoon for the easily pleased. Henson, Butch, Miles Gabriel. Cannon (0171-382 8089); Oxford Street (0171-635 5772); Carlton (0171-630 0310); Odolen Kennington (0429 514965); Mezzacane (0439 615933).

THEATRE GUIDE

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol *) on release across the country.

BARTON HENDERSON (18): While a soap opera writer (Peter Falk) creates magic spells, Barticini's treatment of Mario Vargas Llosa's multi-layered novel. Director, Jon Amiel. Odolen Haymarket (0439 615933).

CLOSE MY EYES (18): Sexual games between brother and sister one hot London summer, vividly portrayed by writer-director Stephen Frears on an excellent cast (Samantha Morton, Cilla Owen, Alan Rickman). Curzon Mayfair (0171-403 8800).

DOC HOWARD (12): Hard-boiled Dublin youngsters form a soul bond. Smart, funny, and buoyantly played by a highly amateur cast. Director, Alan Parker. Camden Parkway (0171-267 7034). Cannons Chelsea (0171-332 5089). Tottenham Court Road (0171-638 6148). Odolen Leicester Square (0171-915933). Merlin Arts (0429 514965). Piccadilly (0171-403 8800). Screen on the Green (0171-228 3850). Whiteleys (0171-732 3382).

DROP DEAD FRED (12): A child's invisible friend (Mike Myers) returns in adulthood to help overcome problems. Jerry Jerry comedy that fails to capitalise on its premise. With Prokofiev. Castle, Almeida. De Joria.

HARLEY DAVIDSON AND THE MARLBORO MAN (16): Mickey Rourke and Dolores Fonzi in a dim-witted but endearing tale of a bank robbery. Director, Simon Wincer. Plaza (0171-407 9925). Whiteleys (0171-732 3382).

LET HIM HAVE IT (15): An epileptic youngster's road to the hangman's noose. Strong, powerful direction about the issue of capital punishment. Director, Peter Medak. Camden Parkway (0171-357 7054). Odolen Kennington (0429 514965). Merlin Arts (0429 514965). Piccadilly (0171-403 8800). Screen on the Green (0171-228 3850). Whiteleys (0171-732 3382).

URANUS (15): Dark, powerful drama from Marcial Ayala's caustic novel about the sexual politics of post-liberation France. Director: Dominique Monnet. First, a first cast; director, Claude Berri. Camden Plaza (0171-403 2443). Charing Cross (0171-831 3742/3743). Lumière (0171-638 0581).

WHY HAS BOONI DHARMA LEFT FOR THE EAST? (Theatre): The lives of Zen Buddhist disciples high in the mountains of Nepal are simple and serene. Awesomeness and cleavage: directed by South Korean maverick Bong Kyun-Yeon. ICA Cinema (0171-633 3647).

MEETING VENUS (12): Backstage drama while staging *Tannhäuser* in

Paris, astutely observed, but lacking punch. Stars: Mireille Mathieu, Glenn Close; directed by John Neumeier; produced by David Puttnam. Barbican (0171-638 8888). Cannon: Finsbury Road (0171-370 2268). Plaza (0171-638 9959). Screen on Baker Street (0171-915933).

PORSON (18): Todd Haynes' style-conscious study in social decadence. Inspired by Jean Genet; unpleasant, unctuous. Director, Todd Haynes. Empire (0171-439 4470). Piccadilly (0171-857 6402).

A RAGE IN HARLEM (18): Barely visible violence in a crime-drama. Director, Peter Hedges. His movie is unimpressive. Star: Forest Whitaker. Gregory Hines, Robin Givens. Director: Bill Duke.

STEPMING OUT (PG-13): Lewis Gilbert's wacky, split version of Richard III's play about would-be hooligans, with Julie Walters, Shirley Eaton, and a host of others. Director, Alan Parker. Empire (0171-407 9925). Whiteleys (0171-732 3382).

TRUTH, MADLY, DEEPLY (PG-13): Grieving Juliet Stevenson has her less-boyfriend (Alan Rickman) back to life. Endearingly human, with a few well-judged set pieces for a superb Anthony Minghella. Director, Griff Rhys Jones. Henry Bell, flummoxed victim of an office coup, is about to launch himself into a watery grave when he hears a yell, and discovers Lia Williams' Karen Knightly, who has despised of regaining her married lover, caught on a girdle beneath. Before long they have renounced self-destruction for reciprocal revenge. If Ayckbourn's title updates *The Revenger's Tragedy*, the play makes wry references to Hitchcock's *Strangers on a Train*, Du Maurier's *Rebecca*, and much else besides.

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Meanwhile, the fun gathers, and grows, at least in the metropolis. In Part I, the events in and around Karen's Mandelay have clearly not yet come to comic fruition. True, there is a nice moment when Rhys Jones, sup-

posed to be the treacherous kind of accountant, shocks the gentry by donning clothes rash enough to make him look like a greenfinch with purple legs and brown claws. But mostly he spends his time in the shires getting to know, and inadvertently falling in love with, his intended victim, the wife of Karen's lover, Joanna Lumley. Lumley's glibly embattled Imogen Staughton Billing. That gives Rhys Jones plenty of opportunity for bashful looks and nervous chuckles and giggles; but not yet for anything more hilarious.

However, the action back in veneer-and-chrome London more than compensates. From the first, Williams' Karen is a marvellous creation, a demonic little rich girl, a reckless

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gore

6.00 Ceefax 6.30 Breakfast News
6.05 Kilroy: Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on the menopause. With Germaine Greer and Britt Ekland 6.30 Hot Chicks. Gary Rhodes prepares a conflit of duck
7.00 News, regional news and weather 10.05 Playdays (r) 10.25 The Family News, Carlton adventures 10.35 Housewife. The first in a new series of homecare and interior design ideas
11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 No Kidding, Quiz game show for families 11.30 People Today. The guests include The Times columnist Matthew Paris 12.20 Pebble Mill with Alan Titchmarsh 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather 1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s)
1.50 Film: Life With Father (1947).
CHOICE: The Hungarian-born Michael Curtiz was a director for all genres, turning his hand to musicals, melodramas and swashbucklers and among a huge and uneven output managing to produce some of the best examples of each. It was Curtiz who made *The Adventures of Robin Hood* and *Yankee Doodle Dandy* and *Casablanca*. With *Life With Father* he essayed yet another form, period comedy. The script, by Donald Ogden Stewart, was based on a play which ran eight years on Broadway. William Powell plays the well-heeled head of a New York family at the end of the last century. He is old-fashioned, quick tempered and furnished the film with one of its main plot lines by refusing to be separated. Irene Dunne plays his loyal but put-upon wife and the 16-year-old Elizabeth Taylor is their son's girlfriend. It is a comfortably upholstered film, even if it lacks some of Curtiz's usual sparkle.

3.50 Plaza 3.55 The Little Green Planet Show (s) 4.10 The Legend of Prince Valiant (s) 4.35 Record Breakers. Includes conductor Carl Davis in a musical record attempt.
5.00 Newsround 5.10 Grange Hill (r) (Ceefax) (s)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Laurie Mayer. Weather 6.30 Regional News magazine. Northern Ireland: Neighbours 7.00 Wogan. Tonight's guests are singer Mariah Carey, television chef Graham Kerr and young actor Macaulay Culkin (s)
7.35 Harry and the Hendersons. American comedy series (Ceefax). Northern Ireland: Sportscast 8.00 Last of the Summer Wine. A welcome return for Roy Clarke's comic paratics, Compo, Clegg and Foggy. Starring Bill Owen, Peter Sallis and Brian Wilde (Ceefax) (s)
8.30 The Ritz Abbott Show. Frantic comedy sketches (Ceefax) (s)
9.00 News One O'Clock News with Martin Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather
9.30 Casualty. This week the hard-pressed staff have to deal with a man with a painful renal complaint; and a young addict who buys prescription drugs from his pensioner aunt. (Ceefax) (s)



Voice of conscience: Martha Gellhorn's 60-year war (10.20pm)

10.20 Omibus: Martha Gellhorn.
CHOICE: "The rebellion of the private conscience," says Martha Gellhorn, "is the last safeguard of civilisation." For 60 years Gellhorn has lived out her conscience, reporting a steadily increasing tide of human evil through the American Depression, the Spanish civil war, Czechoslovakia, Dresden and Vietnam. Last year she was in Peking reporting the crisis of the American invasion. She is now 82 but she is still not ready to settle back and play bridge. This Omibus is a chronicle of Gellhorn's continuing life, told mainly in her own words and giving equal weight to her journalism and her fiction. She is the reporter in the classic mould, tough, resourceful and not afraid of ruffling feathers. She got herself to D-Day by sneaking on to a hospital ship and pretending she was writing a feature about nurses. Until Dachau, she says, she was an optimist. Since then she has been a pessimist and she continues to find much to be pessimistic about. Northern Ireland: Johnny Logan and Friends 10.50 Omibus.
11.10 Film: The California Dolls (1961). Louche and quirky drama starring Peter Falk as the wise-cracking manager of a women's wrestling team who have hit hard times. Their big chance comes when they are lined up to meet the fearsome Toledo Tigers at the Grand hotel in Reno. The last picture made by director Robert Aldrich. (Ceefax). Northern Ireland: 11.40-1.15 Film: The Friends of Eddie Coyle 1.00pm Weather

TV VARIATIONS**ANGLIA**

As London except: 2.20pm-2.50 Women's European Cup 6.10-6.40 This Is America: Charlie Brown 8.00 Home and Away 8.25-8.30 Central News 10.40-10.50 The Young Riders 10.40-12.30 Rugby World Cup 81

BORDER

As London except: 2.20pm-2.50 Graham Kerr 6.00 Lookaround Friday 6.30-7.00 Teke the High Road 10.45-11.10 A Deep Dilemma 12.05am-1.05 In the Heat of the Night 2.05 Dark Dining 2.30 Night Beat 4.00 Cinema Attractions 4.30-5.30 Film: The Hold-Out

CENTRAL

As London except: 2.20pm-2.50 The Magic Web 5.10-5.40 This Is America: Charlie Brown 8.00 Home and Away 8.25-8.30 Central News 10.40-10.50 The Young Riders 11.40-12.30 Rugby World Cup 81

GRANADA

As London except: 2.20pm-2.50 Women's European Cup 6.10-6.40 Voyageurs: The Way of the Cross 6.30-6.45 Home and Away 6.50-7.00 Granada Tonight 10.40-10.50 Film: Up Front 11.40 Rugby World Cup 91 12.35am-1.05 Married With Children

SCOTSMITH

As London except: 2.20pm-2.50 Sainsbury's 3.25-3.55 Home and Away 4.00-4.15 Film: The Twilight Zone 3.05 Film: Breakdown 2-4 Electric Boogaloo 3.05 Pop Profile 4.05 Amica's Top 4.30 Superbox 5.05-5.30 Jodibut

TSW

As London except: 2.20pm-2.50 The Sun 3.25-3.55 Home and Away 4.00-4.15 Film: The Twilight Zone 3.05 Film: Breakdown 2-4 Electric Boogaloo 3.05 Pop Profile 4.05 Amica's Top 4.30 Superbox 5.05-5.30 Jodibut

HTV WEST

As London except: 2.20pm-2.50 You Can Cook 3.25-3.55 A Country Practice 6.00-6.30 West 8.30-9.00 HTV Sportswear 10.40-11.10 Rain's Breed - Three Women Farmers

HTV WALES

As HTV West except: 6.00pm Wales at Six 6.30-7.00 Special Report 10.40-11.10 Images

SCOTTISH

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ULSTER

As London except: 2.20pm-2.50 Check It Out 9.00-9.30 X Factor 9.45-9.55 Film: The Devil's Own 10.40-11.10 Rain's Breed - Three Women Farmers

RTÉ

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TYNE TEES

As London except: 8.00pm Northern Life 8.30-8.45 A Word in Your Ear 10.40-11.10 Rain's Breed - Three Women Farmers

HTV WALES

As HTV West except: 6.00pm Wales at Six 6.30-7.00 Special Report 10.40-11.10 Images

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Storm alert out for drivers

By ROBIN YOUNG

DRIVERS were warned to take extreme care today as gales battering north-western England and Scotland spread to the rest of the country. The forecast is that winds gusting up to 80 mph will continue to cause structural damage in exposed places.

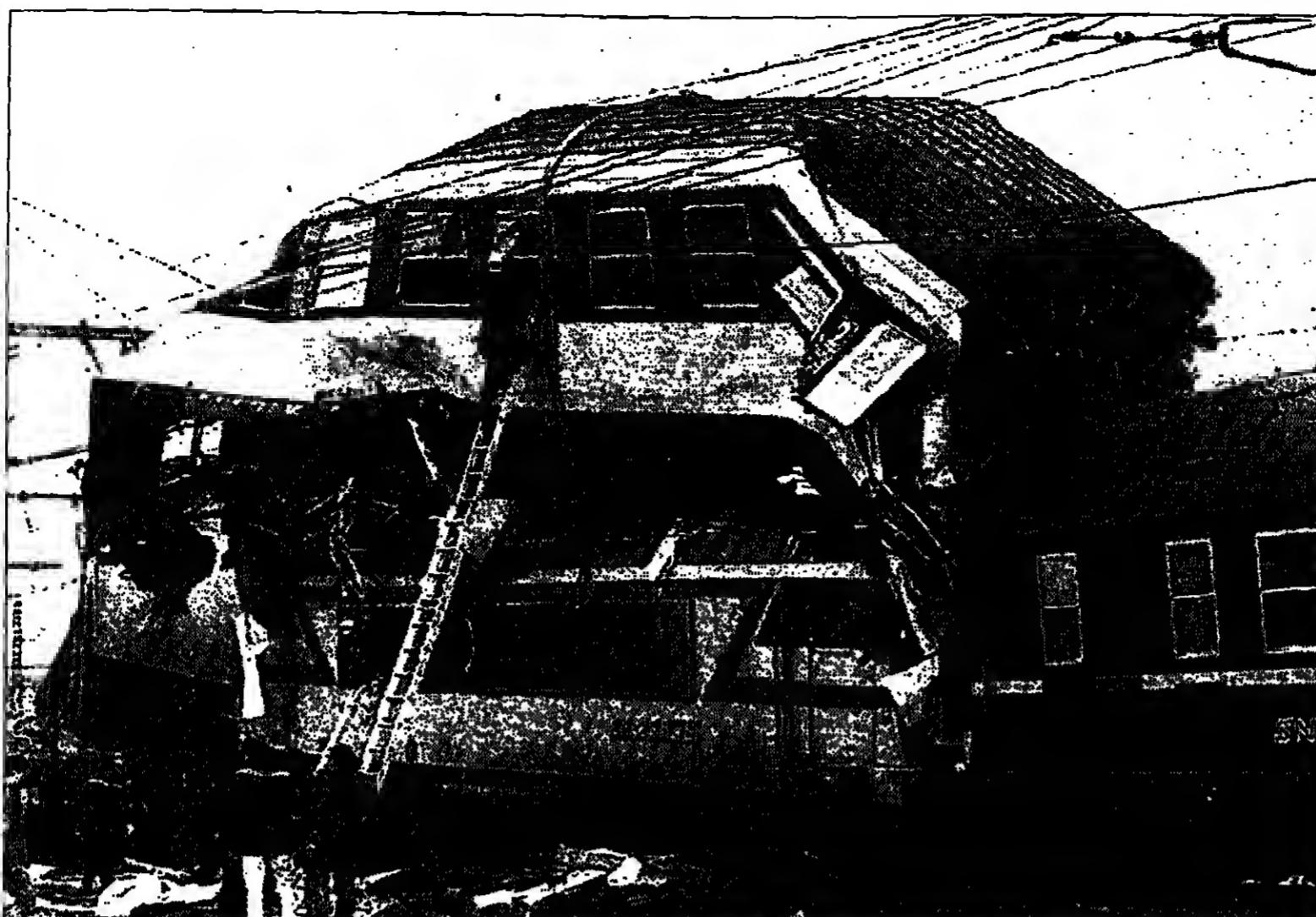
In Scotland yesterday, on the fourth anniversary of the 1987 hurricane, winds of up to 100 mph brought down a power line, part of a roof and several trees.

The Forth road bridge was closed to high-sided vehicles and the Tay bridge to double-deckers. On the Humber bridge, high-sided vehicles were barred and a speed limit of 20 mph was imposed.

Michaela Dridge, aged 15 months, was taken to hospital with a depressed skull fracture yesterday after scaffolding blown down by the wind, fell on her pushchair. Her mother, Mrs Kelly Dridge, had been taking her three, young children for a walk along Clarence pier, Southsea, Hampshire. She managed to pull clear Michaela's twin brother, Benjamin.

Small vessels were confined to port as the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line's 74,000-ton Monarch of the Seas, the largest liner built for almost half a century, put in to Southampton following her completion at shipyards in St Nazaire, Brittany.

Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, yesterday announced extra cash for councils whose areas were worst affected by last January's storms. Cunningham will get £72,100, Kyle and Carrick £8,932, and Dumharton £4,109.



Nightmare collision: rescue workers search for survivors in a sleeping car of the Nice-to-Paris express hurled on top of a goods train by the crash

Paris night-train crash leaves 16 dead

SIXTEEN people were killed and 57 injured, eleven seriously, when a goods train crashed almost head-on yesterday into the Nice-to-Paris express, 25 miles southeast of the French capital. The French railway company, the SNCF, blamed the dead driver of the goods train, saying he had apparently ignored a dou-

ble red light leaving Melun station. The front coach of the overnight express, which was thought to be travelling at about 75 mph, buckled on impact, ripped open at the sides and was hurled on top of the goods train; twisted metal was piled 20 ft high. Huge mobile cranes tore at the wreckage while squads of fire-

men and first-aid workers probed with infinite care through what lay below. In mid-morning, the driver of the express was cut free and lifted from the ruins of his cab. Badly hurt and apparently anaesthetised, we heard later that he had lost a leg but was out of danger. Rescue workers established a "zone of silence"

around the site trying to detect signs of life still in the wreckage.

President Mitterrand ordered an immediate investigation and an official announcement from the Elysée palace spoke of the president's "emotion" on learning of the accident and conveyed the nation's condo-

lences to the families involved. His transport minister, Paul Quilès, at the site of the crash, said he expected speedy results.

Three medical helicopters and 80 rescue vehicles, including 30 ambulances, were on the scene. The waiting room of the station had been transformed into a temporary operating theatre for the most grievous hurt.

According to initial reports, the Nice-Paris train was carrying some 120 passengers — many of whom were returning from a late holiday on the Côte d'Azur.

The accident halted all traffic on Paris's crowded southern suburban railway, leaving thousands stranded, and the road to Melun closed for more than three hours as part of an emergency plan to speed relief to the crash site.

It was the worst train accident in France since June 1988, when 56 people died in a collision between two suburban trains on an underground track at the Gare de Lyon. France's worst railway accident was in December 1917, when a military train jumped the tracks near Grenoble, southern France, killing 800 soldiers on board.

Political sketch

No-hands Mellor leads Treasury's cocky foursome

"AS ALL who followed the Jaffa cake saga will know . . ." Gillian Shephard, junior treasury minister, smiled teasingly over the dispatch box. Even Francis Maude permitted a bleak smile to tug his unforgiving features. The dry, young minister, philosopher-prince of the treasury bench, understood.

But your sketchwriter felt almost naked: like a Balmain cartoon. *The man who hadn't followed the Jaffa cake saga*. Excluded from Mrs Shephard's circle, we who knew nothing of these cakes, could only envy the intimacy her little club of Jaffa-cake initiates enjoy.

The minister was answering Joan Lester (Eccles), complaining (sharp-cut black jacket) about VAT on uniforms. The larger schoolchild pays VAT where uniform is deemed "adult". Beside Miss Lester on the Labour benches, Kate Hoey (sharp-cut pink jacket) rubbed power-padded shoulders with Lin Golding (sharp-cut green) and Joyce Quin (sharp-cut fawn). "Our children," said Miss Lester, "grow faster than the Treasury allows".

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The new economic secretary, John Major, was untroubled by tie or zip: a cool professional flanked by sharper-tongued amateurs. Balance-sheets, we imagine, lay around the infant Major's playpen. But, perhaps tired of being portrayed as the soft man, we noticed something new: a dismissive curl of the lip. When Dale Campbell-Savours (Lab, Workington) — never knowingly under-smeared — suggested the Tories had taken contributions from BOCCI — any rat you can smell, Dale can smell better — Major drawled with a wave of the hand, that this was beneath "even your usual low standards". Major is coming to resemble Peter Walker, without the vanity. Yet:

"Can my hon friend say something about VAT on horses?"

"Depends whether they're wearing school uniform," warned Mr Speaker, less we stray from the question.

"Well . . ." said Mr Greenway, thinking of his feet, without much more success than his thinking off his feet, "... when schoolchildren wearing uniforms are riding on horses, will VAT on bloodstock . . ." and his question followed.

Mrs Shephard was uncertain whether she was allowed to answer it. "You seem to be nodding, Mr Speaker?" she said. Mr

MATTHEW PARRIS

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Manchester 6.07 pm to 7.42 am
Penzance 6.28 pm to 7.42 am

Sun: 7.39 am Sun sets: 8.02 pm
Moon sets: 10.53 pm Moon rises: 5.53 pm

Full moon October 23

Wednesday: Highest day temp: Medley, Hartford and Worcester, 18C (64F); lowest min temp: Stormont, Outer Hebrides, 10C (50F); highest rainfall: Tires, Inner Hebrides, 1.19 in., highest sunshine: Aberdeen, 7.0 hr.

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Business Editor
John Bell

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- 12-PAGE APPOINTMENTS SECTION



THE TIMES BUSINESS

FRIDAY OCTOBER 18 1991

Documents removed in police action linked to BCCI investigation

Fraud Office raids Control Securities

By ANGELA MACKAY

OFFICERS from the Serious Fraud Office and the City of London police raided the head office of Control Securities, the property group, and the homes of the three Virani brothers, who manage the company, as part of a wide-ranging investigation into the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. By the end of the day, more than 20 bags of documents, files and two computers had been seized.

Shares in Control Securities were suspended at 16½p just before the market opened, about half an hour after the SFO entered the company's

head office in Victoria. The share price values the company at £60 million, with the Virani brothers speaking for about 15 per cent of the shares.

Gerald Ronson's Heron Corp is the biggest shareholder, with 15.9 per cent, while British Airways Pension Fund owns 5.4 per cent.

At 7.40am, 15 police officers, accountants and lawyers attached to the SFO entered Control Securities' head office at Control House in Gillingham Street, SW1. Four more officers arrived later.

At about 7am, the SFO

entered a private residence owned by the Viranis in nearby Eccleston Square and removed two bags of documents. They were accom-

panied by Zul Virani, the chief executive of the company's leisure division.

Nazmu Virani, Control's chairman, who is reputed to be Britain's wealthiest Asian businessman, and his brothers Zul and Silu, expressed surprise at the raids and said they had not been involved in any wrongdoing.

Like many of the Asian business community, the Viranis banked with BCCI.

After the bank's failure in July, Control Securities was forced to make provisions of £3.8 million relating to monies held on deposit at the bank and a proportion of the debt on two commercial properties that BCCI occupied.

The matter was com-

plicated by BCCI holding a 5.2 per cent stake in Control in addition to the brothers' private family company, Virani Group UK, losing about £5 million in the collapse.

When the company an-

nounced its 1991 results in August, Nazmu Virani was

confident the company had

dealt with its entire exposure to BCCI and played down the importance of the bank's stake in the company.

The raids are believed to be partly the result of a confidential position paper prepared for the SFO by outside accountants. The document suggests BCCI could have been more closely involved in Control Securities than originally thought. It also raises questions about BCCI's role in certain business deals undertaken by Control over the past two years.

None of the Viranis have been formally questioned by the SFO. However, Nazmu Virani is believed to have cooperated with the li-

quidators in their enquiries.

In a statement, the SFO said the searches had been executed as part of the BCCI enquiry and that "the premises being searched include the offices of the Virani Group UK and Control Securities (both in Control House) and the homes of the Virani



Paper weight: an officer from the Serious Fraud Office removes documents

brothers in order to gather evidence relevant to the enquiry."

Control Securities' shares

almost halved after the Bank of England closed BCCI in July, slumping to a low of 13½p after touching a high of 35½p earlier this year. Apart

from some concern about the company's exposure to BCCI, small investors sold out of the company to try and raise cash after their funds were frozen in BCCI accounts.

Apart from the BCCI de-

bacle, Control Securities, like most property companies, was suffering from the effects of recession and the accompanying market.

The company accounted for this in its 1991 accounts by revaluing its property and

leisure assets; that led to the value of its British properties falling 14 per cent, while net assets dropped 16 per cent to 76p a share.

Consequently, the company produced a pre-tax loss of £3.3 million, compared with a profit of £2.7 million previously, after exceptional charges of £1.2 million affected the group's performance.

Control Securities' shares

reached an all-time high of 107p in 1987 before the stock market crash in October that year. They never regained those heady levels, but neither did Nazmu Virani lose his reputation as a shrewd deal-

maker.

The company accounted for

this in its 1991 accounts by revaluing its property and

Amin's dictatorship had started to single out the Asian middle classes as an undesirable minority that dominated the country's retail trade.

Mr Virani started his busi-

ness with one supermarket in 1976 and developed a chain of 17 stores before moving into wholesaling and hotels. He bought into Control Securities in 1985. He was quoted as saying he made his fortune dealing in the "rubbish" none of the larger property compa-

nies would touch and managed to convince the group's debt by mostly issuing new shares in Control Securities in exchange for assets.

He arrived in Britain in

1972 from Uganda, where Idi

Fraud office raid, page 1

Virani profile, page 3

Rises in earnings steady after revision

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

AVERAGE earnings increases are maintaining their growth at a steady level according to government figures published yesterday. But the constant level of increase was only achieved after an upward revision of last month's figures on earnings growth.

Figures from the employment department showed that the underlying increase in earnings across the whole economy stood at 7.75 per cent. Last month, the increase for July was put by the government at 7.5 per cent, and hailed by ministers as the sharpest fall in earnings growth for a decade.

But yesterday's figures revised the July level upwards, to 7.75 per cent, with revisions of a similar order for production, manufacturing and service industries. The revision to the July figures means that the figures for August, which would otherwise have shown an increase, are static.

The employment department said the July revisions were caused by higher than expected bonus payments in August, and by some lump-sum payments to workers.

Independent pay analysts were highly sceptical about the government's revisions. Ministers had hoped that, fuelled by declining pay settlements – last week the Confederation of British Industry said pay deals had fallen to 5.5 from 6.4 per cent – earnings growth would dip below 7.5 per cent for the first time for a decade.

Productivity in manufacturing rose 0.2 per cent in the three months to August, new data showed. Over the period, manufacturing output fell 5.7 per cent, while there was a sharp fall of 5.8 per cent in the employed labour force.

Based on this, unit wage costs in manufacturing rose 7.8 per cent, which officials said was the lowest rate of increase for 13 months. Across the whole economy, productivity fell 1.6 per cent, resulting in unit wage cost increases of 9.3 per cent.

Most pay rises in the third quarter have been higher than the inflation rate, says Income Data Services, the independent pay research group.

Trend assessed, page 25

Taurus postponed until spring 1993

By GRAHAM SEARLENT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

PAPERLESS share trading, originally scheduled to have started this month, will now begin before April 1993, the London Stock Exchange admits.

Peter Rawlins, the exchange's chief executive, said this latest postponement of the Taurus computerised settlement system stemmed from agreement among users that there should be more time for testing. The original estimates of the time needed to develop Taurus's software systems had been too optimistic.

Investors could find themselves paying about £1.2 billion more stamp duty on share deals as a result of the delay. The duty is scheduled for abolition when Taurus comes into operation. The Treasury said, however, that the Chancellor might now review the

US inflation blow to rate cut hopes

By COLIN NARROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A SURPRISE rise in American inflation during September dashed hopes of an imminent cut in interest rates, but the weakness of the recovery suggests that an easing cannot be long delayed.

Higher housing, food and energy costs pushed consumer price inflation up 0.4 per cent last month, the biggest monthly increase since January and about twice what Wall Street had expected.

These worrying inflation figures were part of a wider of indicators that gave a mixed picture. Expectations that the Federal Reserve Board would seek to ensure a steady recovery from the recession by easing the monetary reins, were previously encouraged by low inflation. But the September surge, after three months of 0.2 per cent ad-

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Ultramar rejects bold Lasmo bid

By MARTIN BARROW

LASMO, the independent oil and gas exploration company, has launched an audacious £1.17 billion takeover bid for Ultramar, the diversified natural resources group.

After several days of speculation about a bid for Ultramar, involving British Gas and BP, it was Lasmo that yesterday emerged with a one-for-one share exchange offer.

Lasmo proposes to retain Ultramar's upstream interests in the North Sea and Indonesia but to dispose of extensive downstream interests in North America, including two refineries and almost 2,000 petrol stations, as well as shipping interests.

Ultramar dismissed the

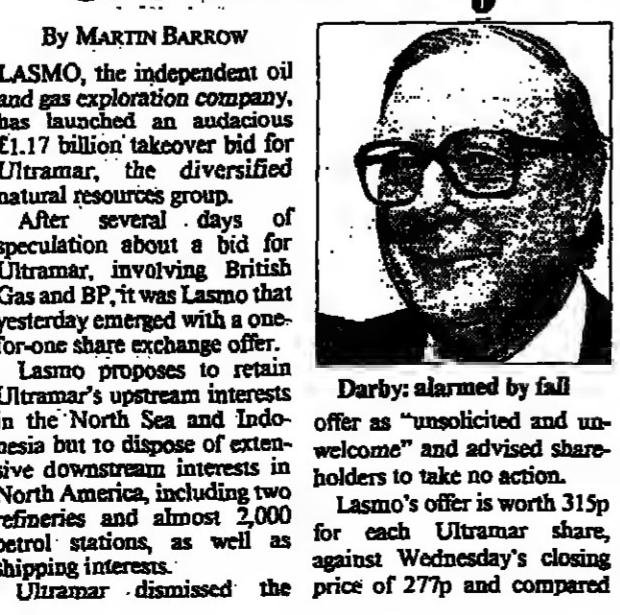
with a 12-month high of 355p. Ultramar's recent bid speculation provided some support, the shares had underperformed the stock market by 30 per cent. Affected by reported losses of £21 million after tax for the first six months of the current year, the shares slumped to a low of 254p. As a result, Ultramar, one of the original constituents of the FT-SE 100, was removed from the index this summer.

Analysts heaped scorn upon the value of the bid and dismissed it as primarily an opening shot in what is likely to become a protracted battle. The enlarged group would enjoy production of 209,100 barrels of oil-equivalent a day, compared with Lasmo's cur-

rent output of 93,000 barrels. Chris Greenstreet, chief executive of Lasmo, said: "The logic of combining our business with Ultramar's upstream interests, both of which are focused in the UK and the Far East, is compelling." He added that Ultramar's current strategy was irrational.

In August, John Darby, the Ultramar chairman, alarmed by the fall in his company's share price, indicated that a strategy review was under way and that disposals of underperforming businesses would be sold, a process that is expected to accelerate in the defence against the bid.

Comment, page 25



Darby, alarmed by fall offer as "unsolicited and unwelcome" and advised shareholders to take no action.

Lasmo's offer is worth 315p for each Ultramar share, against Wednesday's closing price of 277p and compared

TVS goes back to its bankers

By MARTIN WALLER

AS SHARE prices in some television companies retaining their franchises continued to fall so worries about their future financial health, one of the losers in the franchise row said it was in talks with its bankers over their continued support.

TVS Entertainment reiterated comments, made at the time of the group's proposed £60 million refinancing earlier this year, that failure to retain the right to broadcast to the south and southeast of England could mean a gradual sell-off of the group's assets.

That is the board's preferred strategy as it continues to operate the licence until the end of next year. If the rival Meridian consortium is confirmed to the award of the licence, then the refinancing at TVS will not happen. Discussions will take place with the banks "as a matter of urgency", said a statement.

TVS shares slipped another 3p to 18p. Also falling were Yorkshire down 22p at 158p, and HTV Group, down 4p at 42p, both thought by analysts to have bid uncomfortably high sums to keep the licence. Granada, also a successful franchise-holder, saw its shares rise by 6p to 190p.

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

Fisher plans to continue buying spree

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

ALBERT Fisher, the fresh and frozen food distributor, will continue its policy of growth by acquisition despite City fears over its long-term growth potential. Tony Millar, the group's executive chairman, said £42 million was spent last year on three large acquisitions and he would not be surprised if a similar amount were to be spent this year.

He said, however, that he would be reluctant to issue shares at the current price, which fell another 2p to 89p. They have slumped almost 35 per cent in the past seven months. Fisher has £70 million cash on its balance sheet.

Mr Millar has appointed Stephen Walls, chief executive of Aijo Wiggins Appleton, and Hugh Ashton as non-executive directors to strengthen the board and improve City sentiment in the wake of Keith Brackpool's departure as chief executive of the American division in March.

Fisher made pre-tax profits of £89 million for the year to

end August, compared with £74.4 million. Turnover rose by 6 per cent to £1.1 billion and earnings per share rose 6 per cent to 10.36p. There was an extraordinary charge of £6.47 million representing the cost of writing off the group's investment in Pacific Agricultural Holdings. The final dividend of 2p makes 3.75p for the year, an increase of 12 per cent.

The market had been expecting higher profits from Fisher but the recession in America, where profits fell from £19.3 million to £18.9 million, and problems at Holco, the European mushroom processing business, depressed results. Overall, the European business made £53.9 million, compared with £49.8 million.

Mr Millar said delayed earnings on the acquisitions made to date would total a maximum of £22 million, payable by the end of 1992, if all the companies met their top profit targets.



Adding strength: Stephen Walls joins Albert Fisher

Ridley 'not irrational' on Fayed

NICHOLAS Ridley, the former trade secretary, did not act irrationally or unreasonably in refusing to seek disqualification of the Fayed brothers from company directorship over their conduct during the Harrods takeover battle, Treasury counsel argued in the High Court.

"Dishonesty and deception do not automatically lead to disqualification," said Mr John Laws for Peter Lilley, the present secretary of state. Mr Ridley's decision in March 1990 could not be challenged unless he had acted irrationally or unreasonably.

Lilley is seeking to overturn the then minister's refusal to apply to the courts for a disqualification order against Mohammed, Ali and Salah Fayed, despite publication of an official DTI report that said the Fayed brothers had persistently won approval for their successful £615 million takeover bid for the House of Fraser stores group.

David Oliver, QC, for the Fayed brothers, said: "There is a real difference between honest trading in the ordinary course and the sort of pressure exerted on people in the course of a hotly contested takeover." The judges will give judgment today.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Bell Lawrie White fined further £75,000

THE Securities and Futures Authority has fined Bell Lawrie White, Scotland's largest stockbroker, £75,000 for breaches of rules after the merger of Robert White and Bell Lawrie in 1989. The broker is part of Hill Samuel, four of whose investment companies were fined a total of £100,000 by the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation in May.

The breaches involved the broker's failure to reconcile accounts within the time specified in rules. The failure, once discovered, was reported to the regulator by the broker. No one lost any money as a result of the breach and the broker has now strengthened its financial controls. The fine included a contribution towards the costs of the disciplinary hearings. Hill Samuel Private Client Management, Hill Samuel Unit Trust Managers, Hill Samuel Investment Services and Hill Samuel Pep Managers had admitted 13 breaches.

Jermyn slips in first half

AIR London International, the USM-listed air charter broker, is raising its final dividend to 1.8p (1.4p), making an improved total of 3.2p (2.5p). Pre-tax profits increased from £46,000 to £70,000, but the company incurred a £19,000 net loss on fixed-asset investments (profit of £78,000). The loss per share is 1.16p (earnings of 3.17p). Earnings per share are 8.9p (6.2p).

BTG omits interim

BUSINESS Technology Group, the office equipment company where Tony Berry, the former chairman and chief executive of Blue Arrow, recently took control, has passed its interim dividend (1.3p) after reporting a loss.

The pre-tax loss for the six months to end-June is £154,000, against a profit of £985,000 last time. Turnover rose from £2.4 million to £30.4 million. The loss per share is 0.42p (earnings of 4.76p).

Forward cuts losses

FORWARD Technology Industries, the high-tech cleaning to videotape duplication group, has trimmed pre-tax losses from £1.13 million to £635,000 in the six months to end-June. Turnover declined from £19.8 million to £18.6 million. The loss per share is reduced to 1.9p (2p loss). Once again, there is no interim dividend.

Gerrard slightly lower

INTEREST rates and bond yields will continue to fall due to slow money growth and a much weaker economy in 1992 than most expect, says Gerrard & National, the discount house and securities group. Group profits, not revealed at the half year, were slightly down, the company said. Profits for all of 1990 were 40 per cent up at £12.1 million. Shares fell 10p to 327p from disappointment at a maintained 6p dividend.

H Boot bucks the trend

HENRY Boot & Sons has again bucked the trend in the construction sector with a rise in pre-tax profits to £2.07 million (£1.96 million) in the first half of this year. The interim dividend rises from 7p to 7.5p a share. The shares gained 13p to 683p.

Jamie Boot, the managing director, says the recession continues to affect business and that the hoped-for recovery has yet to happen. The company bought in 190,000 of its own shares at 46p each this year.

Crown pleases

Shares in Crown Eyeglass rose 20p to 190p on better than expected interim results and the announcement of a 2p maiden dividend. Pre-tax profits for the six months to end-September rose from £79,000 to £242,000.

MY in profit

MY Holdings, the board and plastic packaging group, rose to a pre-tax profit of £547,000 in the year to end-August (loss of £2.05 million). A final dividend of 0.5p (nil) makes 0.5p (0.55p).

Brooks cuts

Brooks Service Group has cut its interim dividend to 1.3p (1.84p) after a decline in pre-tax profits from £563,000 to £336,000 in the 26 weeks to June 29.

Air London lifts payout

AIR London International, the USM-listed air charter broker, is raising its final dividend to 1.8p (1.4p), making an improved total of 3.2p (2.5p). Pre-tax profits increased from £46,000 to £70,000, but the company incurred a £19,000 net loss on fixed-asset investments (profit of £78,000). The loss per share is 1.16p (earnings of 3.17p). Earnings per share are 8.9p (6.2p).

Rolls wins \$80m order

AN \$80 million order to supply gas turbine power systems for offshore platforms in the South American oil and gas industry has been won by Cooper Rolls, a joint venture between Rolls-Royce and Cooper Industries of Houston, Texas. Rolls will provide engines and spares worth \$30 million as part of the contract.

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Pause for Tunnel evidence

HIGH Court hearing into an application by Eurotunnel to prevent contractors Transmanche Link (TML) from halting work on the Channel tunnel's cooling system was adjourned.

A judge in chambers is understood to have acceded to TML lawyers' request for more time to gather evidence. The hearing is expected to resume next week.

In a joint statement, the parties said TML had agreed to continue work on the cooling system until the full hearing.

The dispute is part of a battle over £810 million of additional claims by the contractor for work on the £620 million lump-sum contract.

TML is a joint venture between five French contracting groups and five British ones: Balfour Beatty, Costain, Taylor Woodrow, Wimpey and Tarmac.

Correction

A REPORT in *The Times* on Wednesday concerning Lancashire & Yorkshire Portfolio Management Limited referred to Stephen Morris, who is associated with that company, as having previously been a director of Blacks Leisure plc. We now understand that this was a different person of the same name, and we apologise to both, and to Blacks Leisure, for any confusion caused.

Japan fears severe economic slowdown

By COLIN NARROUGHE, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

FEARS that Japan could be heading into its worst slowdown since the 1973-74 oil shock have alarmed big corporations and the powerful Ministry of International Trade and Industry (Mit). Mit is concerned that the slowing seen in the latest industrial output data is a factor behind the renewed upward trend in the politically sensitive trade surplus, which hit a record \$9.76 billion last month. Independent economists have long claimed that conditions are right for lowering the Japanese discount rate to reinvigorate domestic demand, thereby sucking in more imports that would reduce the trade surplus.

Kichi Miyazawa, the former finance minister tipped to succeed Toshiki Kaifu as prime minister of Japan, is expected to exert strong pressure for lower interest rates. Mit has proposed a discount rate cut as a way to boost domestic demand, thereby sucking in more imports that would reduce the trade surplus.

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Kevin Eason asks
why a life-saver fire
as standard to British
cars made for the
United States is not
out of UK use.

A piece of equipment is
British cars.
United States
Some models sold in
American makers also
parental carriages, and
not for sale in the U.S.,
but on sale in Britain.

Although Britain
is among the best
in the statistics business
which government
caring safety
which inflate
the driver and
are potentially fatal
injuries, are
most popular accident
among the U.S.
American federal
opted automatic
one that allows the
use between belts
and sprung for
National Highway
Administration
of 2 million cars
in next year.
It's now that up
the death of drivers
could be preventable
through training.

Motor vehicle manufacturers
Trade
Private

BUSINESS LETTERS

Double standards in European airline orders

From Mr M. Walton
Sir, I read the article (Business & Finance) regarding Airbus Industrie's request for the European Commission to investigate British Airways' (BA) aircraft purchasing policy with interest.

Perhaps Jean Pierson should also request the Commissioner to investigate the engine selection policy of the major "state" owned European airlines, none of which — Iberia and TAP excluded — have ever pur-

chased a Rolls-Royce (R-R) RB211 or Trent engine.

Irrespective of one's opinion of BA's decision to purchase GE90 powered Boeing 777's rather than the Airbus A330 or R-R Trent engine, in my opinion, it certainly was not in the best interest of R-R, one has to accept that BA made the choice.

Would Air France, Lufthansa or Alitalia be allowed to select R-R engines? I think not, one suspects that they are directed to purchase US

manufactured engines in which their own indigenous engine companies are partners.

A case of British airlines must support European designed and built aircraft, but European airlines need not support wholly European designed and built engines.

Yours faithfully,
M. WALTON,
3 Harwood Drive,
Swallows Green,
Hinckley,
Leicestershire.

Profit priority

From Mr B. Warnes
Sir, Thank you for a fascinating article about David James on Saturday, October 5.

One's main reaction is what a pity the skills of people like David James cannot be used on already-profitable companies, to enhance their performance. Many of our more important companies, particularly engineering companies, make miserable returns on sales, 5 per cent or so.

As a result they often have wholly inadequate ploughback in R&D and capital investment which is currently a source of much concern.

Those, on the other hand, that start making 15 per cent or more have no such problems and there are now fairly standard ways of achieving it.

Have we got our priorities right?

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN WARNES,
Managing Director,
Business Dynamics Ltd.,
13 Blackheath Village, SE3.

Interest rates: cause or cure?

From Emeritus Professor David Bell
Sir, In your article on the long-term effect of high interest.

"The fight against inflation" is a good political slogan, but is it not time to consider the down-side of high interest rates?

Putting in a few values of UK interest on the "inflation" chart shows that there is a noticeable resemblance between the variations of interest and inflation in the UK, which the Chancellor might say is inevitable because high interest is the main element in the "fight against inflation".

But since the steep rise in inflation (approximately from the first to third quarters of 1990) came after the rise in interest in 1989 it is possible that high interest caused inflation by encouraging large wage claims and increasing all costs of production and distribution (Business letters, March 1990). Later (report, May 30

holders would be grateful if it was made clear that Manweb, which is based in Chester, has no connection whatsoever with Roosecote Power Station.

Norweb, the Manchester based electricity company, is a 20 per cent shareholder in Lakeland Power, which owns and runs the power station. Norweb is thus a pioneer in two senses; it was the first Regional Electricity Company

to take a stake in an independent power station, and the first to sign a 15 year offtake contract which, as Mr Bassett pointed out, was the final crucial piece in the jigsaw puzzle which brought the project to its successful completion.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL KAFKA,
Head of Corporate Affairs,
Norweb,
Taibot Road, Manchester.

FT-SE 100 VOLUMES

Vol '900	Vol '900	Vol '900	Vol '900
Abbey Nat 2,484	Cadbury 1,003	Lorrio 487	Royal Bank 747
Aldi & sons 2,327	Courtaulds 728	Lucas 500	Royal Ins 735
Anglia 1,182	Enterprise 2,281	Marwell Cm 7,695	Selby 7,677
ASDA 9,641	Eurotunnel 1,208	Merkel Cm 206	Sect Power 6,750
AB Foods 131	Fisons 5,269	Metland 2,682	Sears 6,750
Argyl 3,269	Globe 1,022	Midland 2,682	Shell 2,725
Avg Wrig 4,467	Nat Power 2,653	Northumb 2,682	Siemens 2,725
B&Q 581	Gen Acc 2,653	NW Water 426	Small & N 4,000
BTR 1,480	GEC 2,260	Ntn Foods 1,278	Sun Beach 5,250
BAT 6,148	Grand Met 1,208	P&G 1,022	Tarmac 942
Barclays 6,148	Hillman 1,208	Pearson 50	Telco 1,145
BBC 1,017	Hillside 1,208	Pilkington 1,134	Telco 1,261
Bk Scotland 1,822	Guinness 1,173	PowerGen 2,475	Tesco 2,261
Blue Circle 620	Hanson 0,958	Prudential 2,475	Thames Wh 246
BOD 1,003	Hawker 1,400	Rank 1,035	Trans Emt 318
Boots 546	Hilldown 768	R&C 2,260	Tridelgar 2,827
Brown 1,000	Hillside 1,208	Reed 701	Unilever 3,474
Bt Always 7,088	Houghton 677	Rentokil 22	United Bk 3,375
Bt Gas 8,028	Leamso 6,533	Rouster 658	Vodafone 511
Bt Petrol 6,454	Ledrode 1,162	RMC Gp 358	Whitbread 346
Bt Steel 675	Land Sec 675	RTZ 1,552	Williams 27
Bt Telecom 4,922	Lloyds 1,426	R-royce 1,022	Willis Cor 1,857

RECENT ISSUES

SOURCES				
Abingdon Spill (100p)	102 +1	Vtech Hdg	63	
Adam & Harvey 183	113	See main prices page for Electricity		
Albrecht Leys 40+	94	shares		
Alliance Res 18-1	103 +1			
Capital Ventures 228 +5	103 +1			
Contra-Cyclical 100p	228 +5			
County Smr Inv 111	112			
Culver Hedges 49	112			
Davyson Blowers 100p	112			
EBI Inc Test (65p)	103			
EMB (225p)	103 +1			
EPMI 228	103 +1			
Euromark 70	103 +1			
Europac 228p	103 +1			
US Smaller 266	103 +1			
	(Issue price in brackets).			

RIGHTS ISSUES

Crossroads Oil N/P	112			
Crown Comms N/P	112			
Domino N/P	112			
MB Canada N/P	63 +1			
Porter Chaudron N/P	112			
Starman N/P	112			
Wills Group N/P	112			
	(Issue price in brackets).			

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INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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071-782 7828

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Geoteam Exploration Ltd. A/S and its affiliated company in the U.S. are presently expanding their 3D marine seismic exploration activity. The first high technology 3D survey vessel, Geo Explorer, has recently successfully completed her first 3D survey and the second 3D vessel, Discoverer, has recently been commissioned in the Gulf of Mexico. This expansion has created vacancies for the following positions

Party Chiefs - Applicants should have a minimum of 4 years experience within the seismic industry. Previous experience in this position is preferred.

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Applicants for the above positions should have a minimum of 3 years experience within the seismic industry, preferably, but not necessarily with the above systems.

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Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page. Add them up to give you your overall total and check it against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Code or last
1	AB Food	Foods	
2	Massey	Industrials L-R	
3	Read Int'l	Newspapers, Pub	
4	Nut Foods	Foods	
5	Souk & New	Beverages	
6	BAT	Tobaccos	
7	South West	Water	
8	ECC Group	Industrials E-X	
9	Grenfell	Breweries	
10	Stora	Water	
11	Br Petreco	Oil/Gas	
12	Delta	Electricals	
13	Transport Dev	Transport	
14	Amet	Building Roads	
15	Unilever	Industrials S-Z	
16	Shoe	Industrials A-D	
17	Arrows	Building Roads	
18	Cross Bros	Banks, Discount	
19	Br Aerospace	Motors/Aircraft	
20	General Met	Housewares	
21	North West	Water	
22	Sumit (Jeff)	Paper, Print, Adv	
23	Woodgas	Oil/Gas	
24	Unicem	Electricals	
25	Broken Hill	Industrials A-D	
26	Costain Group	Building Roads	
27	Costs Vireo	Drapery, Stores	
28	Whisman	Industrials S-Z	
29	RHM	Foods	
30	Cadbury-Schweppes	Foods	
31	Woolsey	Industrials S-Z	
32	Vaux Group	Breweries	
33	BOC	Industrials A-D	
34	Pearlstar	Industrials L-R	
35	P & O D&D	Transport	
36	Formaster	Drapery, Stores	
37	Br Boroco	Oil/Gas	
38	Ocean Group	Transport	
39	Amherst Day	Drapery, Stores	
40	Vickers	Industrials S-Z	
41	Fit Group	Motors/Aircraft	
42	Westpac	Banks, Discount	
43	Blue Circle	Building Roads	
44	MB-Cardon	Industrials L-R	

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Daily Total

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend					
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.					
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

Three readers shared the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mr L.G. Fear, of Ynystawe, West Glamorgan; Mr William Islip, of Cambridge, and Mrs Ann Falla, of Jersey, Channel Islands, each received £666.66.

BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Circa	Yield
SHORTS (Under Five Years)					
995	894	Times	1261	100	1.25
1002	895	Each	1725	1361	1.00
1003	913	Times	1191	1000	1.25
1005	955	Times	985	888	1.35
1006	955	Times	985	888	1.35
1007	955	Times	985	888	1.35
1008	955	Times	985	888	1.35
1010	955	Times	985	888	1.35
1011	955	Times	985	888	1.35
1012	955	Times	985	888	1.35
1013	955	Times	985	888	1.35
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1016	955	Times	985	888	1.35
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1020	955	Times	985	888	1.35
1021	955	Times	985	888	1.35
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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

BRIEFINGS

The Prince of Wales Youth Business Trust has helped set up 11,000 businesses while assisting unemployed or disadvantaged 18 to 25 year olds with grants and loans. Among the businesses, two thirds of which have stayed afloat for 18 months or more, there is also no apparent worsening in performance because of recession. The trust ascribes its success to the way each young person is counselled and their performance is monitored.

□ The extra cost to small business from legislation planned by the European Community will be discussed at a conference at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London on October 28. One of the aims is coordinated lobbying to achieve legislation that will benefit employers and employees. The conference has been organised by seven small business support groups and sponsored by the National Westminster Bank. Details: 071-486 0531.

□ A guidance pack, *Making the Cash Flow*, published by the Department of Employment, underlines the need for effective credit management, especially by small businesses, in a period when there has been a worsening of late payment problems to trading debts. There is a special section giving advice to the small operator on procedures that can be adopted to secure more prompt payment. Free copies of the pack can be ordered by telephoning 0742 597301.

EDITED BY DEREK HARRIS



Striving to improve standards: Moshe Gerstenhaber, chairman, unveils the new Kall Kwik logo

Initiatives emphasise quality

TWO developments are pointing the way for small businesses to keep abreast, if not ahead, of the competition, by improving quality and efficiency (Derek Harris writes).

One concerns the spread of the quality standard BS5750 into service industries and to small businesses. British Standards Institution, one of several accrediting bodies, said its service industries registrations had doubled in 12 months.

In franchising, a BS5750 certificate has been won by a printing and copying business in the Northeast, which is part of the Kall Kwik chain. Kall Kwik said it was the first print, copy and design franchise operator to receive such a BS certificate and Kall Kwik was now encouraging all its 200 outlets to apply.

Today, at the opening of the autumn franchise exhibition in London, Moshe Gerstenhaber, the British Franchise Association deputy chairman, will

unveil a new logo for Kall Kwik, of which he is chairman. Like the drive to achieve BS5750 standards, the new logo signals expansion by the company, which is one of the top two operators in the high street quick printing sector. Mr Gerstenhaber said: "Setting standards for an industry is the way long term for a business to differentiate itself."

There is also a small business dimension to the announcement earlier this week by the employment department of an investor in people programme, according to Eric Forth, the small businesses minister. The aim is to achieve more successful businesses, so, in key respects, the new initiative mirrors BS5750. Mr Forth said: "There is no reason why the smallest of businesses cannot recognise the importance of developing everybody in a company through training and by giving them a sense of worth within the organisation."

Mr David said: "With our showcases, the aim is to give

smaller retailers similar interiors to those in the big chain stores. Small shops often cannot buy from larger interior suppliers.

THERE can be few pleasures in business so great as to set up in opposition to the company that trained you and then made you redundant.

That happy fate befell Darren Haines, who, with Antony David, his partner, established TD Design, which designs, manufactures and supplies quality showcases for smaller retailers.

Both partners had travelled abroad independently, Mr David in South America and Mr Haines in India. When they returned to Basildon, Essex, they knew they could not command London wages there but neither wanted the daily bind of commuting to the City. So, in October 1989, Mr Haines went to a JobCentre, which introduced him to Instant Muscle, charity specialising in helping small businesses get started.

Instant Muscle put the partners in touch with other organisations and helped them find a workshop. The charity also helped them to buy an old Post Office van to deliver the showcases they started to make using Mr Haines' skills, acquired while working for the company they now regard as their greatest business rival.

Mr David said: "With our

smaller retailers similar interiors to those in the big chain stores. Small shops often cannot buy from larger interior suppliers.

"People are surprised that such a small company as ours makes such a high-quality system. It is not a cheap system."

Among the organisations that Instant Muscle provided contact with was the Prince's Trust, set up by the Prince of Wales to help young people in business.

Mr David said: "My partner and I were in the office every day

MR FRIDAY

except Christmas Day for a year. We tried as hard as possible but we wouldn't have got anywhere without the Prince's Trust giving a helping hand."

An important breakthrough came at an exhibition organised by the Trust in Hyde Park. TD Design was one of 250 businesses selected to show to the London market. Although Prince Charles was unable to attend, the attendance was good. This was followed by an interior design exhibition in Manchester.

TD Design has received a £1,500 grant and a three-year loan at about 3 per cent interest from the Trust, which has a representative in Basildon available for advice. The charities that helped the company also supply details of competitions for enterprising small businesses. Mr David has been on a business course in the Lake District as a prize won in an Essex competition.

There is a spirit of camaraderie among young enterprises in Basildon. TD Design, which is one year old, trades information and business with its neighbours. The company buys its supplies from other small, local businesses where possible. After all, Mr David and Mr Haines know what a struggle it can be starting up.

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TENDERS & CONTRACTS

PETROLEUM CONTROL COMMISSION Tender for the Supply of Petroleum Products to Malawi

Offers for the supply of petroleum products to Petroleum Control Commission (PCC) are invited to be received at the Offices of Petroleum Control Commission, Downs House, Victoria Avenue, P.O. Box 2627, Blantyre, Malawi, not later than noon Malawi time on Friday, 15th November, 1991. Offers should be addressed to the Executive Secretary, Petroleum Control Commission, Downs House, P.O. Box 2627, Blantyre, Malawi, and should be submitted in sealed envelopes marked "Tender - Petroleum Products" on the top left hand corner.

1. The tender is for the supply of following quantities of motor gasoline 87 Ron and gasoil:

(a) 26,300 metric tons motor gasoline 87 Ron, per annum;

(b) 44,700 metric tons gasoil, per annum.

2. PCC reserves the right to increase or decrease these quantities by up to 10% in response to changes in the level of demand of petroleum products in Malawi without any change in the price or other terms and conditions.

3. The period of supply is 24 months.

4. Commencement of deliveries of contracted quantities will be after 1st April, 1992. Arrival of shipment in Dar es-Salaam, Nacala or Beira, whichever the case may be, shall be scheduled throughout the contract period strictly in accordance with PCC's requirements.

5. Tender documents may be obtained on payment of a non-refundable deposit of Mts 50,000, or USD 20.00, from the Executive Secretary, Petroleum Control Commission, P.O. Box 2627, Blantyre, Malawi. All enquiries regarding the Tender Documents should be made in writing to the Executive Secretary.

6. A tenderer should keep his tender open for 30 days from the date fixed for receiving tenders.

7. Petroleum Control Commission reserves the right to award the tender in whole or in part and does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender nor will it assign any reason for the rejection of a tender.

8. Members of the public may attend the opening of the tenders in the Board Room of Petroleum Control Commission, Downs House, Victoria Avenue, Blantyre on Friday, 15th November, 1991, at 3.00 p.m. local time.

Richard E. Kamphale
Executive Secretary, Petroleum Control Commission

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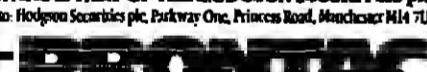
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Letting the cat out of the bag

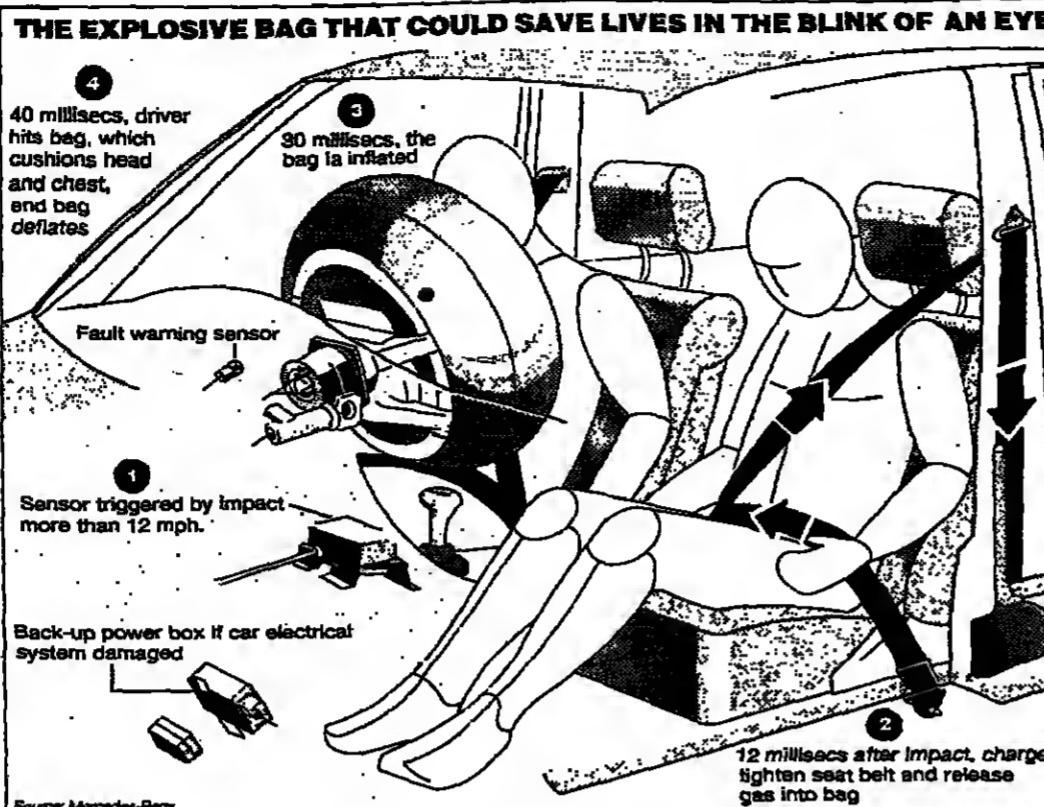
Kevin Eason asks why a life-saver fitted as standard to British cars made for the United States is left out of UK models

A piece of life-saving equipment is fitted to British cars sold in the United States, but not to the same models sold in Britain. European makers also fit the equipment, airbags, as standard on cars for sale in the US, but not to those on sale in Britain.

Although Britain's road accident record is among the best in the world, the statistics belie the way in which government and manufacturers drag their feet in introducing safety measures. Airbags, which inflate on impact to protect the driver and passenger from potentially fatal head and chest injuries, are becoming the most popular accident prevention equipment in the US.

American federal legislation requires automatic safety equipment but allows the makers to choose between belts and airbags. Most are opting for airbags, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that 8.6 million cars will have them by next year.

Tests showed that up to 40 per cent of deaths of drivers in car crashes could be prevented by an airbag alone. If airbags are used in



conjunction with shoulder and lap belts, the chances increase to 55 per cent. The evidence was convincing enough to persuade Mercedes-Benz to pioneer development of airbags and decided this week to make the equipment standard on 11 models, including the new S-class cars and the 300SL, 24, 300, 500SL and 500E.

The company is cutting the price of airbags as an option by almost half to encourage take-up on other models. The prices for a driver-side airbag are down from £1,433 to £750 and for the passenger side from £2,500 to £1,500.

The company was the first to develop airbags from technology used in the NASA space pro-

gramme. Mercedes spent £9 million and went through more than 300,000 miles of testing to prove the system could work in cars.

In most crashes, the driver is held by the seat belt but the head and chest catapult into the steering wheel. Manufacturers are experimenting with softer steering wheels but they would need to be

jelly-soft to guarantee safety. In a Mercedes, sensors are timed to trigger the bag at an impact equivalent to the car hitting a wall at 12mph. In 12 milliseconds, tiny explosive charges tighten the seat belt and release gas, mainly nitrogen, into the tear-resistant bag in the steering column hub. In 30 milliseconds, the 170-litre bag is inflated, cushioning the driver's forward movement. In 40 milliseconds, the time it takes to blink, the driver hits the bag, which then starts to deflate in case he needs to regain control of the car.

Similar systems are fitted as standard to models from Lancia, Volvo, BMW and many other companies for sale in the US. Why not in Britain? Honda has one car available, the new Legend, with a standard airbag, but that is all. Volvo offers the airbag on all of its cars in Britain, but only as a £730 option. For most drivers choosing inner cars there is no option.

The industry trots out the same well-worn excuse of cost as the reason for not introducing them. Cost has hindered the introduction of everything from better security locks to the catalytic converter.

Cars have stopped the fitting of airbags in the US, where not only are cars cheaper anyway but manufacturers, particularly in the luxury sector, are cutting one another's throats to make sales. Airbags are available even on the smallest cars on the market.

Perhaps Britain can learn from the US, where customer pressure has hastened the introduction of airbags.

that motorists were committed to a contract over the telephone and inquired whether their car was sold through the register or not. The Automobile Association was inundated with calls after the Times investigation.

Two of the largest companies, Cardata and Car Search 2000, called for a code of practice to drive out "cowboy" operators. Car Search 2000 has also brought in a three-day cooling-off period from the date of invoice so that motorists can withdraw.

Robert Cartwright, the managing director of Car Search 2000, is taking proposals for an industry code to trading standards officers for Chwyd today. He is also sending the proposals to the OFT.

Mr Cartwright wants the cooling-off period to be mandatory, companies to say where they are advertising the customer's car and a flat pricing structure to end the practice of doubling the cost of the invoice has not been paid within seven days.

Drivers smooth-talked into deals

Exposed: last week's article alerted motorists to canvassers

New engine? Certainly, Sir

THIS shows real confidence. General Motors in the United States will supply new engines if anything goes wrong with those in their 1992 model cars. The exchange started this month and will run until next October covering five engine groups between 2.3 and 6.5 litres. Mechanics have been told to service the usual items but not to much vital components when there are faults.

Clocking clockers

CAR "clocking" remains a problem on the forecourts of used car dealers, says HPI, the vehicle research group. Recent checks showed 36 per cent of independent dealers had suffered problems with cars that had mileometers turned back to deceive buyers. HPI wants to set up a register to keep a central file of cars and their recorded mileages at every sale to prevent clocking.

Peugeot extras

A CATALYTIC converter on the new Peugeot 106 small car will cost an extra £565. Peugeot's attitude to catalysts is already inexplicable, given that they will be required by law on all new cars from January 1, 1993. Vauxhall provides "cats" as standard on the

Astra and absorbs the cost, but Peugeot says customers should have a choice. The 106 XN 1.1 with cat costs £7,365, compared with £6,800 for one without, according to new price lists. A 106 XT 1.4 with cat is £9,175, compared with £9,150 for the standard model. Prices start at £6,195 for the XN 1.0 base model and end at £10,775 for the XSi Cat.

Crime clampdown



CAR clamps are finding increasing favour as a device to prevent thieves and joyriders. Lionwell Wheellock, the company at Middlesbrough, Cleveland, that makes clamps approved by the police, says it is selling more to owners who want to immobilise their vehicles. The prices of Lionwell clamps range from £60 to £315, plus VAT, for vehicles from Minis to 30-ton lorries.



Motor mini-museum: Oliver Woolston lines up his knockdown Trabants, costing £1,000 all in

On the Trabbiie trail

THE cynical could suggest that the collective name for a group of four Trabants is a breakdown. Oliver Woolston would disagree strongly, having driven every one of his quartet of Trabbits back from Germany in his Hertfordshire farm. Kevin Eason writes.

He admits the experience was uncomfortable, thanks to the bone-breaking, deckchair-like seats, primitive suspension and rattling two-stroke engine. However, he made the journeys so that he could own every one of the four models produced by the Zwickau factory in eastern Germany. He has one of the fifteen cars, an estate, the military version and a late model quirkily badged as a

limousine, although, he says, the interior is more like a cheap runabout of 40 years ago.

Although the plastic-bodied Trabant has become a cult among former East Germans could not get rid of their cars fast enough after reunification. As a result, Mr Woolston bought all four for less than £1,000, including £60 for the 1959 model, an early example of the soon-to-be-infamous genre with a 500cc engine managing only 19 brake horsepower and fitted with cross-ply tyres.

Mr Woolston intends to keep the Trabbits as his small piece of motoring history. He does drive them — but not often because they are so uncomfortable.

CAR BUYERS GUIDE

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miles, 9,000 miles, high spec.

1979 560SEC Nastic blue/cross
miles, 12,000 miles only, superb

1991 300E 2.6D Diamond/black,
miles, 4,000 miles, 100,000 miles.

1992 300E Red, miles, 12,000 miles only, removal
plate.

1993 300E Red, miles, 12,000 miles only, removal
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1995 190E 2.0 Blue/black, 10,000 miles, 100,000 miles.

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2038 200E 2.0 Blue/black, 10,000 miles, 100,000 miles

Soviet break-up may pose problem to Games

IOC urged to give national bodies a say in quota debate

From DAVID MILLER IN SYDNEY

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DOCTOR Jacques Rogge, the newly-elected International Olympic Committee (IOC) member for Belgium, yesterday dropped a new figure into the complex financial equation of the Olympic Games.

The collective contribution of 175 national Olympic committees (NOCs) to each Games, Rogge estimates, is \$150 million, divided equally between sending their teams and preparing them at qualifying events. This compares poorly, he suggests, with the small subsidy granted by the IOC.

Rogge is one of an increasing number of IOC members wearing two hats, for he is also the president of the Belgian NOC and of the Association of European NOCs. He is disturbed that international sports federations are likely to set standards on qualification and quotas for reduction of the Olympic programme, and that NOCs will be left outside the debate.

A bush fire was alight here even before the annual congress of the General Assembly of International Sports Federations had begun, following last week's pur-

port statement from some of the IOC on the elimination of several sports such as equestrianism and yachting, which is Rogge's own sport, from the Olympic programme. The story arose from an agency report of an interview with Rogge, including a stray comment, not by him, on specifically threatened sports.

In yesterday's seminar here, Rogge said that European NOCs were in favour of quotas to restrain growth, but they consider that qualifying places should be allocated to an NOC, flexibly dependent on individual form and fitness, as in shooting, rather than to specific competitors, as in boxing. Quotas should be on the number of events per sport as well as on competitors, he said.

This threw a swimming representative, speaking from the floor, into a frenzy: event programmes must be the same as for world championships, he shrilled. This nicely demonstrated the agonies that lie ahead as each sport defends its catch; swimming, for instance, failing to see the absurdity of someone winning five Olympic gold medals.

South Africa appeal

Sydney — The International Olympic Committee (IOC) yesterday appealed to world sports bodies to help South Africa's return to the international arena following its readmission to the Olympic movement in July.

The general assembly was told that the international war against drug use in sport was far from over, despite more rigorous testing and a decline in the number of athletes found to have used drugs.

"The anti-doping movement remains one of our main pre-occupations," Un Yong Kim, of South Korea, the president of the GAISF, said in his opening address. (Reuters)

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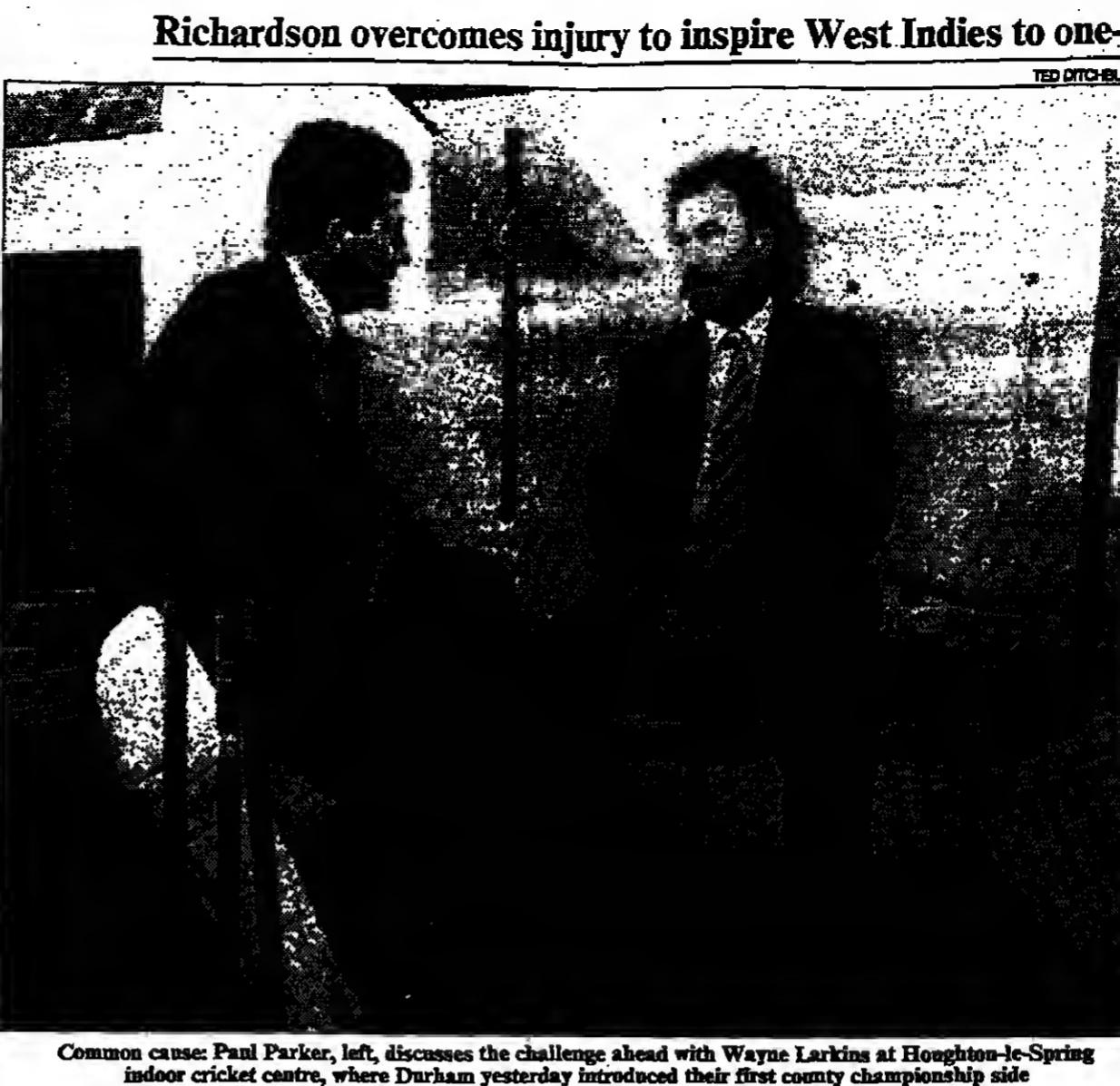
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Common cause: Paul Parker, left, discusses the challenge ahead with Wayne Larkins at Houghton-le-Spring indoor cricket centre, where Durham yesterday introduced their first county championship side

Waugh twins tune up for cup

OVERSEAS CRICKET
by SIMON WILDE

STEVE and Mark Waugh have demonstrated again what a formidable force they may be when Australia defend the World Cup early next year. The twin brothers, playing for New South Wales, defeated Tasmania, Greg Ritchie failed on his first appearance for Queensland since coming out of retirement.

The United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) has lifted the restriction on provincial teams signing new overseas professionals to play and coach, even though the International Cricket Council's penalties for such contact remain in force.

The provinces, limited to fielding one overseas player at a time, have failed to take advantage of their new freedom, with Western Australia being their main targets.

Franklyn Stephenson is to play for Orange Free State, Extra

place, has now scored four centuries in a month, having enjoyed a prolific tour of Zimbabwe with Australia's B team.

At the weekend, Tom Moody began the season well with 69 off 87 balls as Western Australia beat Tasmania, but Greg Ritchie failed on his first appearance for Queensland since coming out of retirement.

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left as Gloucestershire's chief

coach with a year of his contract to run, for "personal and business reasons", has taken up the same post at Orange Free State.

The UCBSA also named

five grounds — in Cape Town,

Johannesburg, Durban, Port Elizabeth and Verwoerdburg — as available to host Test matches, which are expected to be played in South Africa next winter. Only Cemetary Park, Durban, will be registered as an England-qualified player.

The two strongest teams,

Western Province, the Castle

Cup holders, and Transvaal,

have not signed any foreigners.

Transvaal have more than compensated for Steve Smith's return to Australia, where a more lenient attitude is being taken to South African rebels, while the main targets.

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place, has now scored four

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France positive for World Cup showdown

Confident Blanco refuses to consider defeat

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN PARIS

IT WILL be, Serge Blanco promised yesterday, different from 1990. He must hope he is right, otherwise the world's most-capped rugby international will end his career at the Parc des Princes tomorrow, beaten by England in the quarter-finals of the World Cup.

On the night of February 2, 1990, a wild storm hit Paris; in its wake, England won their five nations' championship match 26-7. "England played so well because France were so bad," Blanco, the French captain and full back, said after his team trained at Chateau-Ricard, just outside Paris. "Not only trees were uprooted in Paris but 15 French players." Could it be a favourable omen for England that another storm is threatened for this weekend?

Because of that performance, the defeat in the grand slam match in March this year, and the fact that Blanco, at 33, will play no more international rugby after the World Cup, France will not admit the possibility of defeat.

"We have learned from Twickenham in March that was an apprenticeship for this team," Blanco said. "I asked these players before that championship to make sure we were in a position to contest the grand slam and that is what they achieved."

But the full back, who will be making his 93rd appearance for France, has not been to dominating form himself during the World Cup. A stomach disorder, which has



**RUGBY
WORLD CUP**

affected others in the squad, is blamed for leaving him out of sorts — a condition which might be applied to France's victories over Romania, Fiji and Canada, when moments of traditional French genius were interspersed with errors of which better teams might have taken advantage.

None the less, France's capacity for scoring tries outshines England's: they scored eleven to England's five in last season's championship, and have twelve to England's nine in this tournament. Blanco cherishes the memory of that wonderful score by Philippe Saint-André at Twickenham seven months ago, not just because he started it but because it was a collective effort, something he has always admired, even though he has come to be recognised as one of the game's great individuals.

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"I don't think my own approach has changed over the last 11 years. What has changed is my apprehension. When I was 22, I was nervous of making mistakes, or missing opportunities which might have been damaging to the team. But little by little, as my career progressed, my skill developed and the possibility of missing a pass or even a catch doesn't worry me now."

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Even so Blanco's capacity for the unexpected puts him alongside David Campese as the greatest entertainers on the world stage. "England should be wary of kicking to put pressure on me — unless they do it very well — because I will take the chance to cause problems. I can create this disorder."

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